

# DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN: PRELUDE

BENDIS • LAFUENTE • PICHELLI • MEDINA • PONSOR



# SPIDER-MAN®

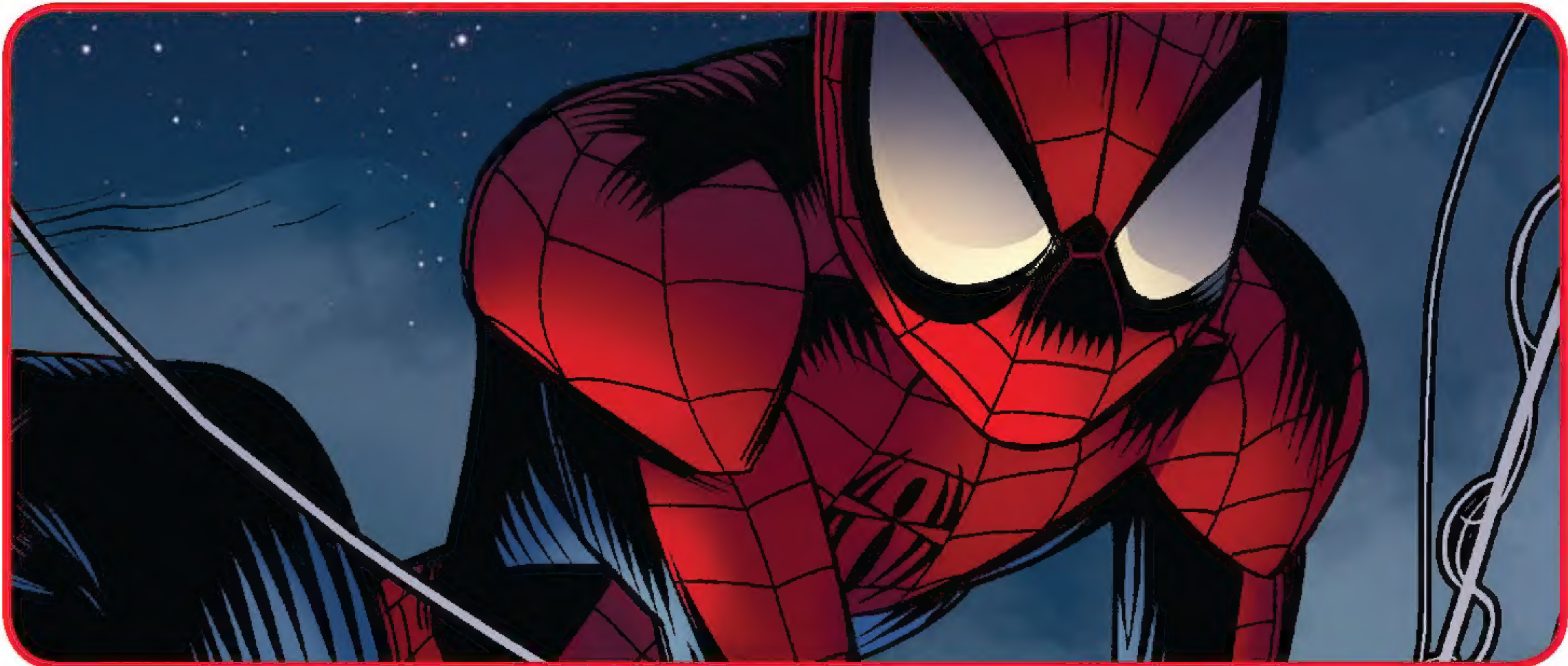
MARVEL®  
ISSUE  
153

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The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible arachnid-like powers. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility.

Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a part-time job, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man!



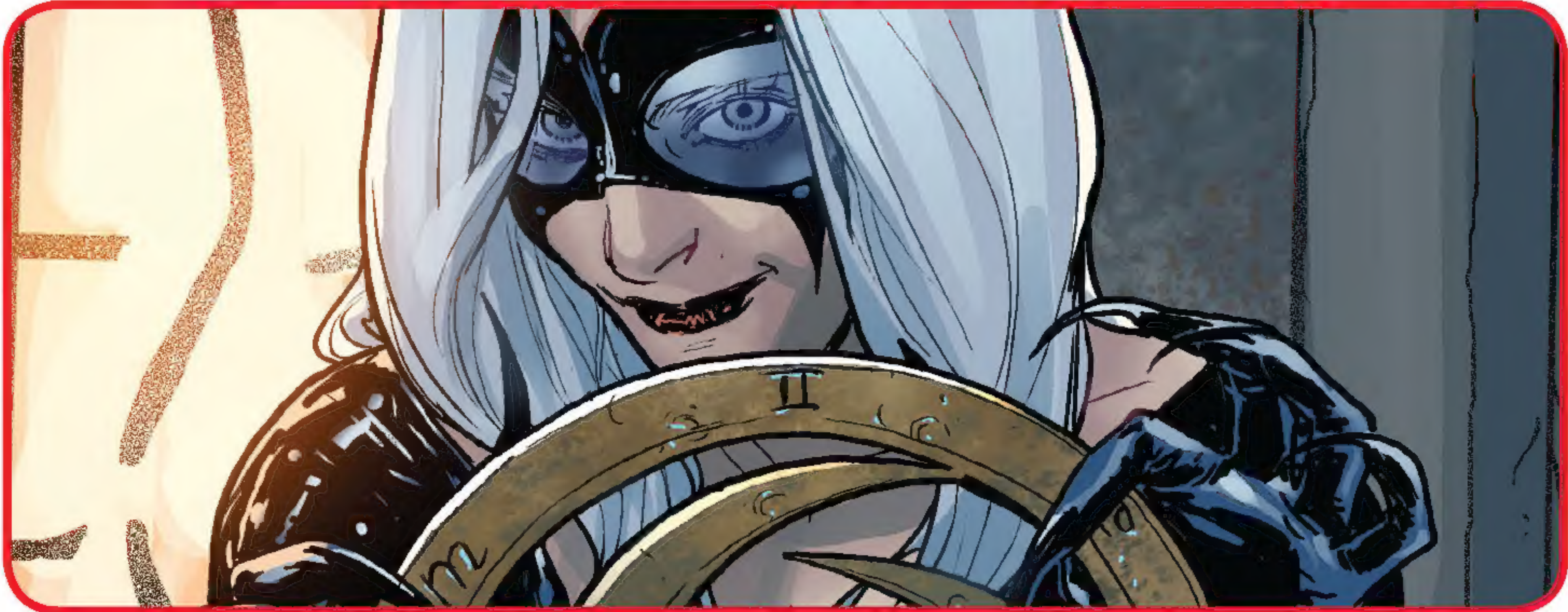
## PREVIOUSLY IN ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN:

Spider-Man is now living with Johnny Storm, a.k.a. the Human Torch, and Bobby Drake, a.k.a. Iceman. Both have disguised themselves as his cousins and are going to school like normal kids.

The world peacekeeping task force S.H.I.E.L.D. has decided to put their foot down as far as all things Spider-Man are concerned. Spider-Man is told that he must undergo afterschool super-hero training if he is to continue fighting crime. Iron Man is his first tutor.

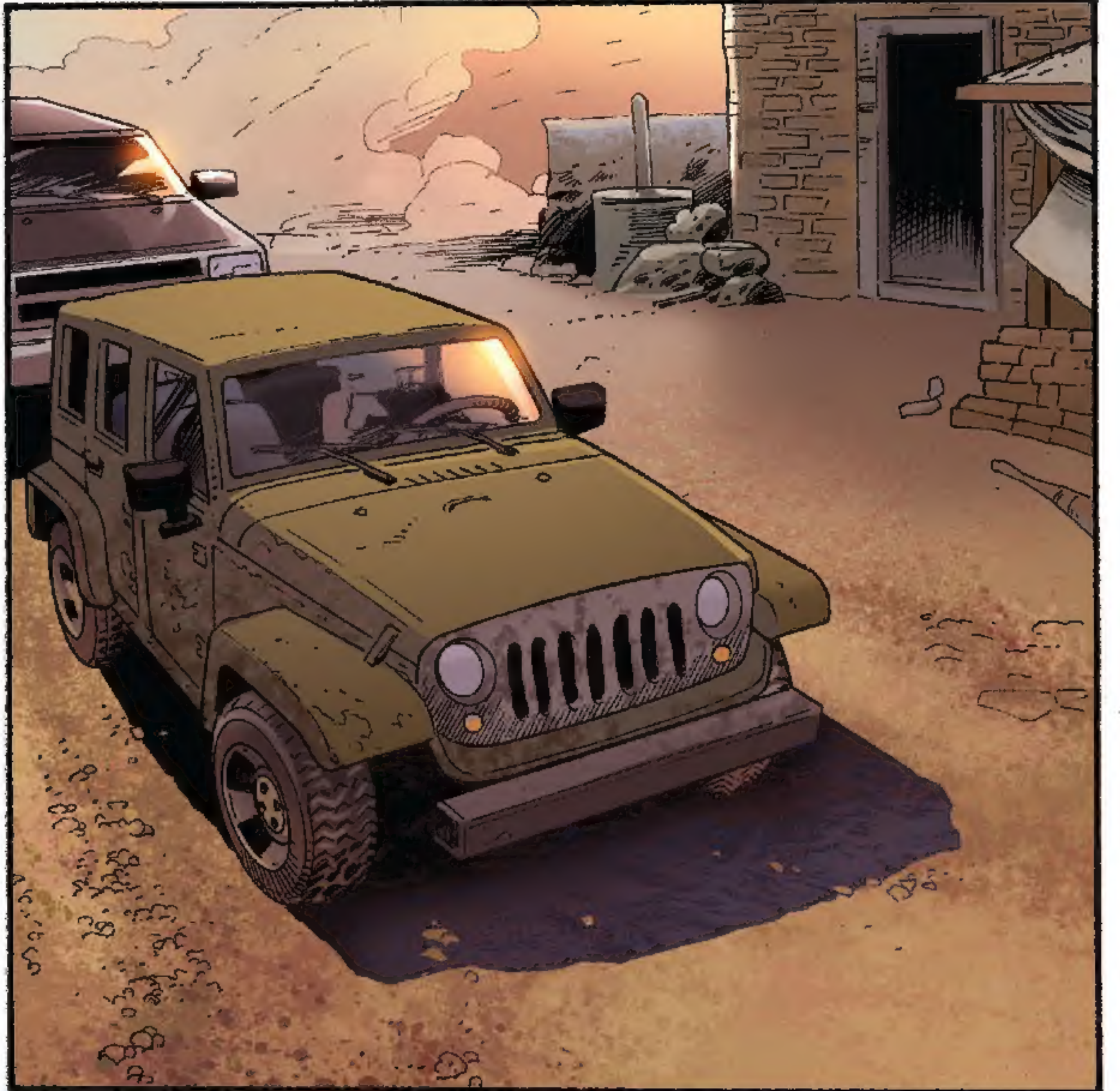
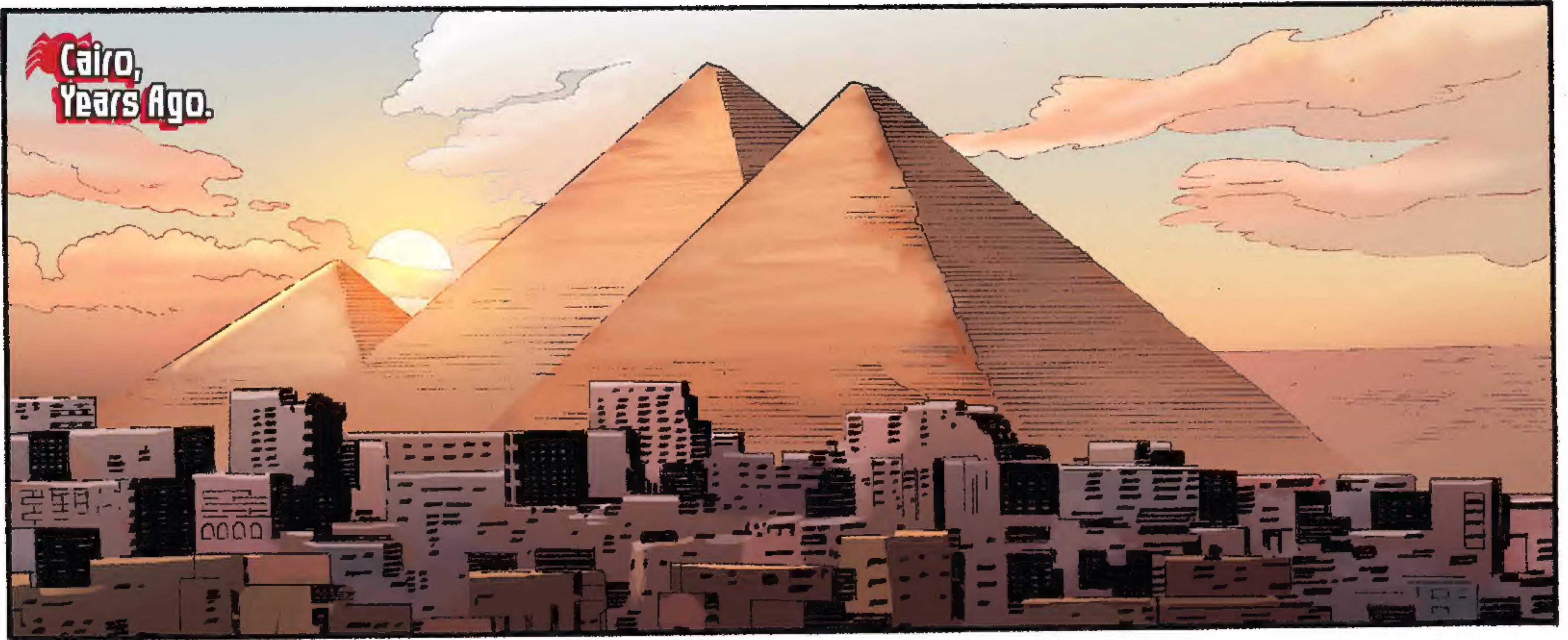
Mysterio made a play to be the new Kingpin of Crime but was taken down by Spider-Man. Another Spider-Man foe, the Black Cat, was witness to the entire thing and steals a mystery artifact known as the Zodiac key from the Kingpin’s archives.

Mysterio is after it as well.



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You brought guns? I told you *no guns*.

I'm not coming in there, Yasif...

You're going to have to come out here.

I said *no guns*.

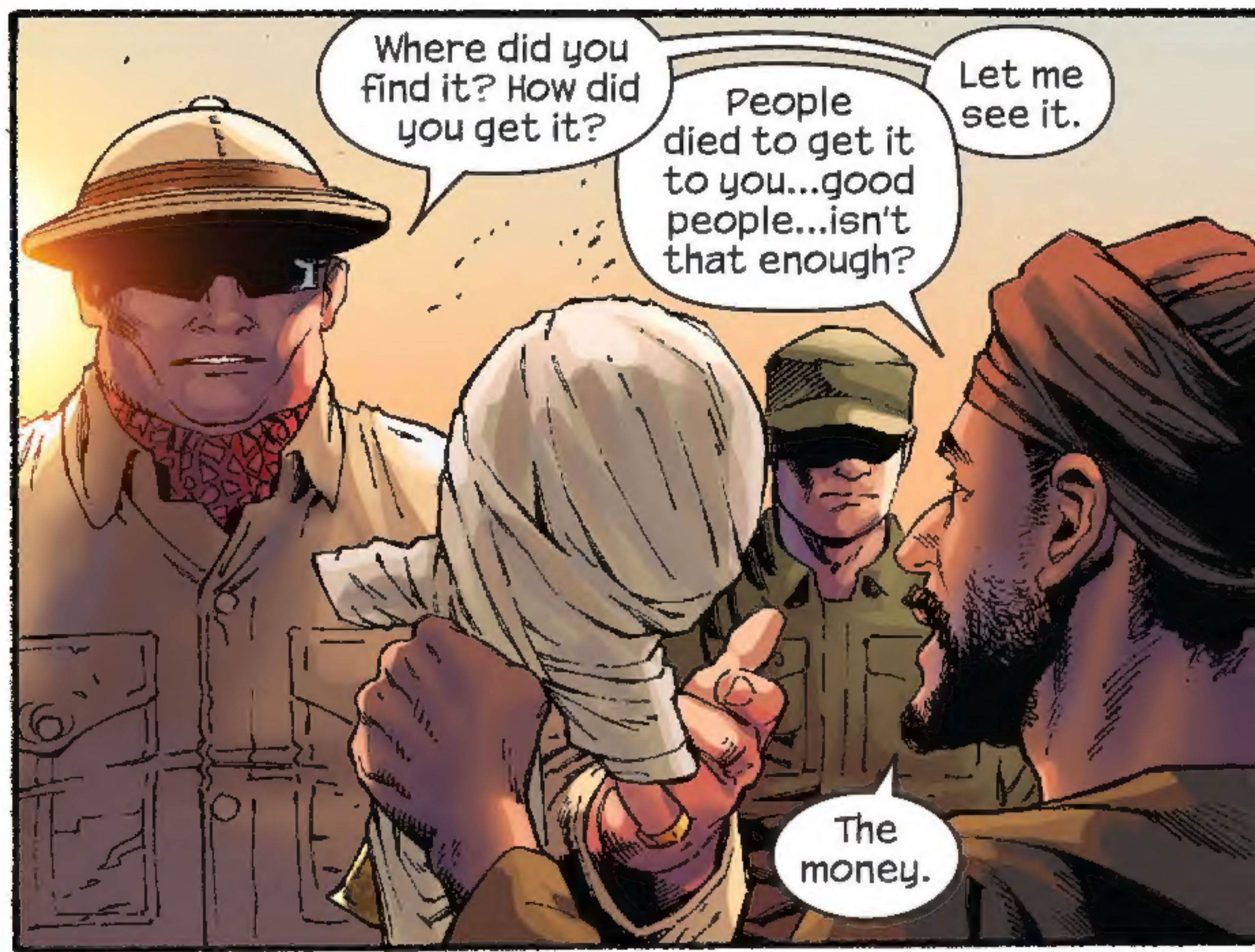


I am a stranger in a strange land, Yasif, and, I must say, you are showing *terrible* hospitality.

Tell your men to put those guns *down*, Fisk.

Put those guns away or the *deal is off!!*

There's *children* here.



Where did you find it? How did you get it?

People died to get it to you...good people...isn't that enough?

Let me see it.

The money.



Give him his money.

Congratulations.

Give it!

I think that technically makes you King of Cairo.



It is now yours.

How does it work?

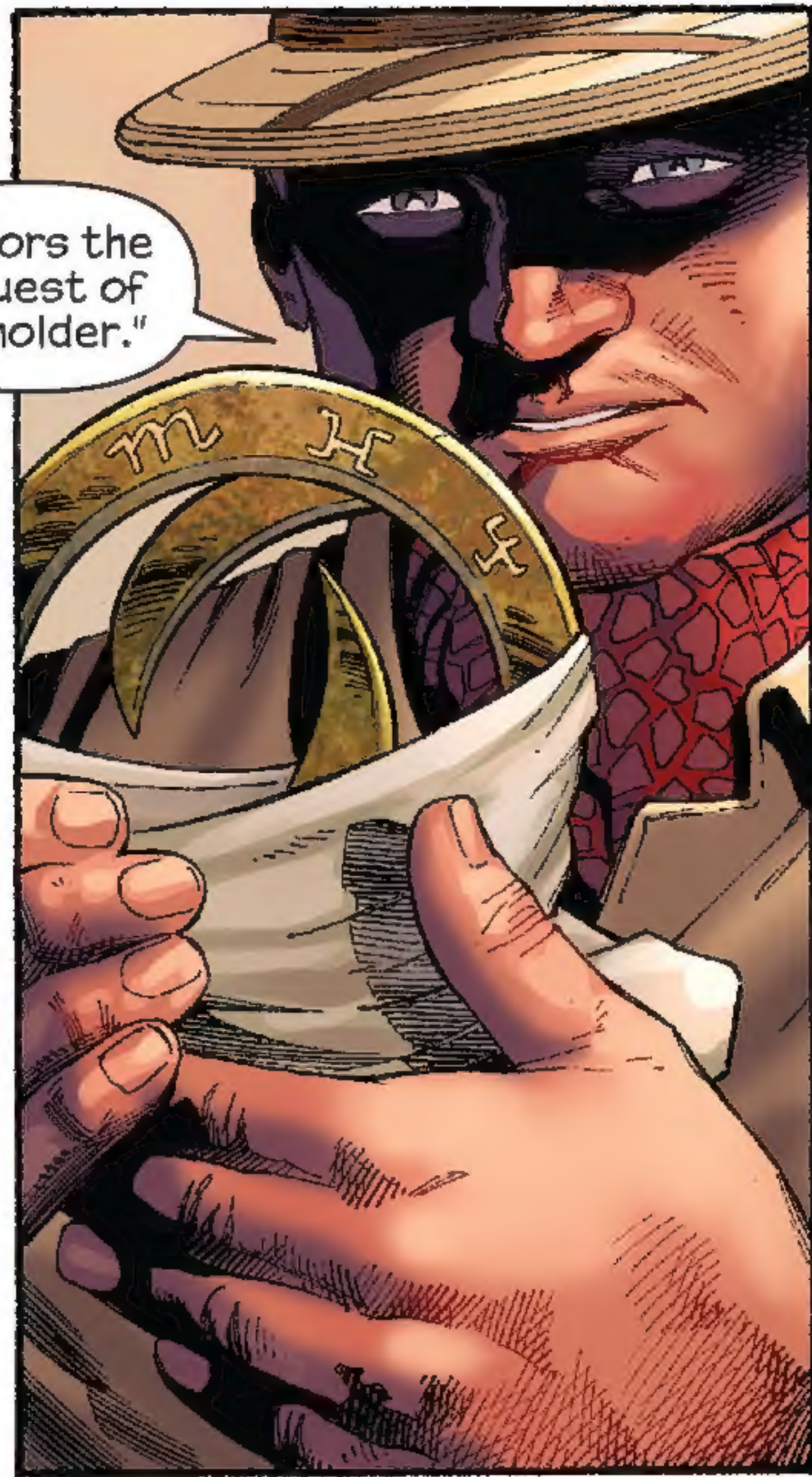
The scroll said it honors the request of its holder.

Hhmmm.

Why didn't *you* use it then?



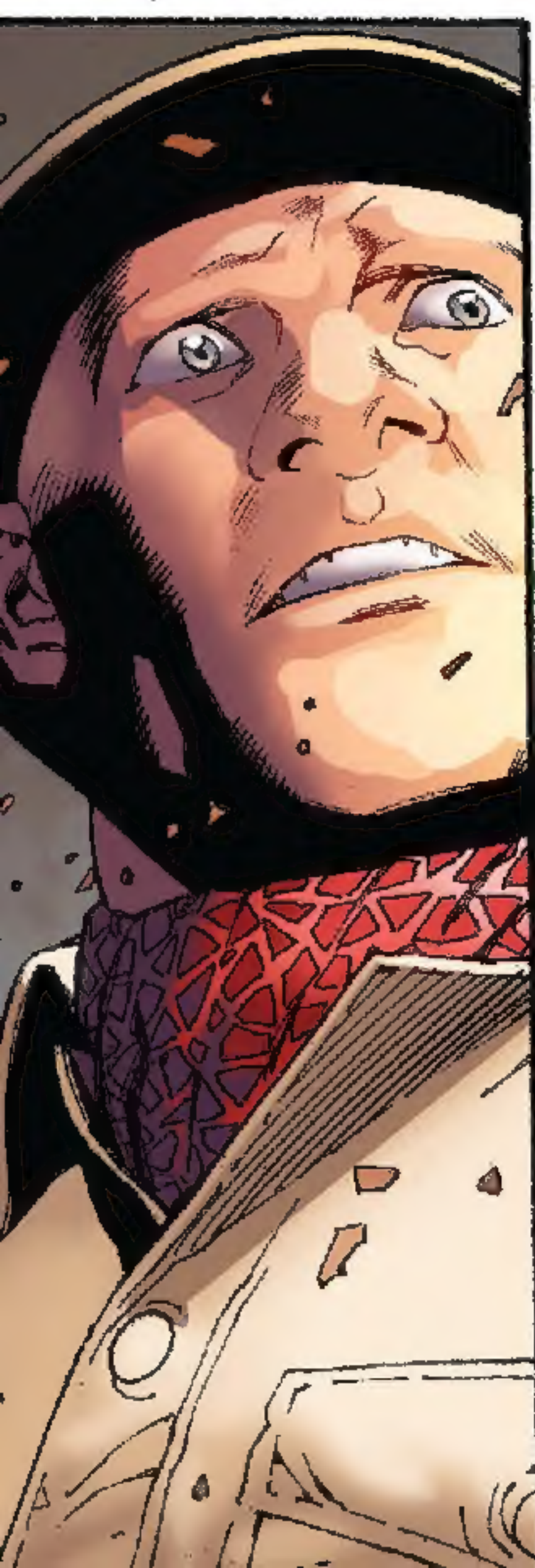
Because everything has a price.



"Honors the request of its holder."









Super  
awesome  
cool!!!

Super  
awesome  
cool?

I am *totally*  
digging the new  
Iron-Man armor.

That is  
because you  
are one *nerdy*  
little kid.

And *that's*  
the nicest thing  
anyone's said to  
me all week.

You're ready  
to learn how to  
be a super hero?

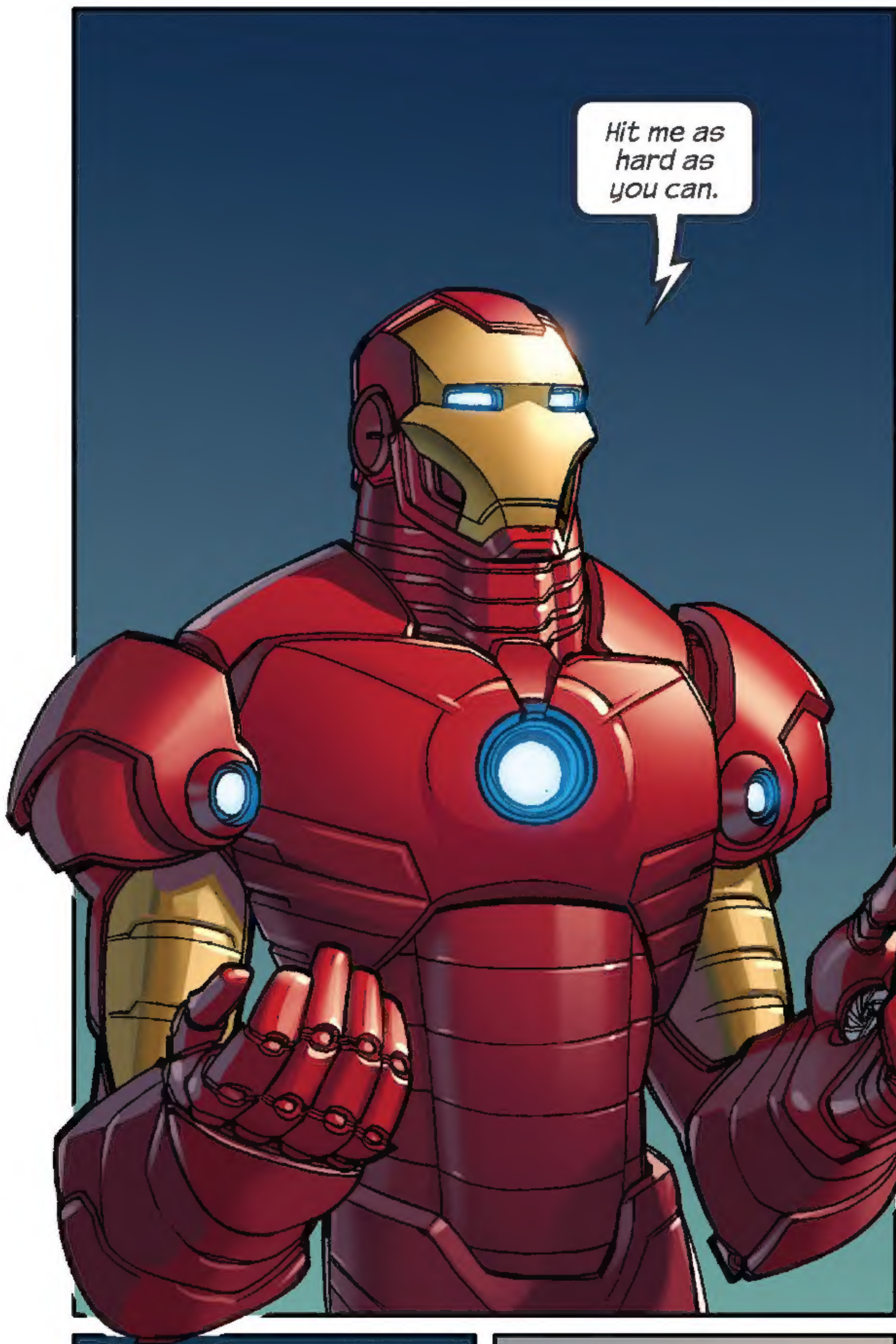
Am I!!

And I  
am actually  
asking...

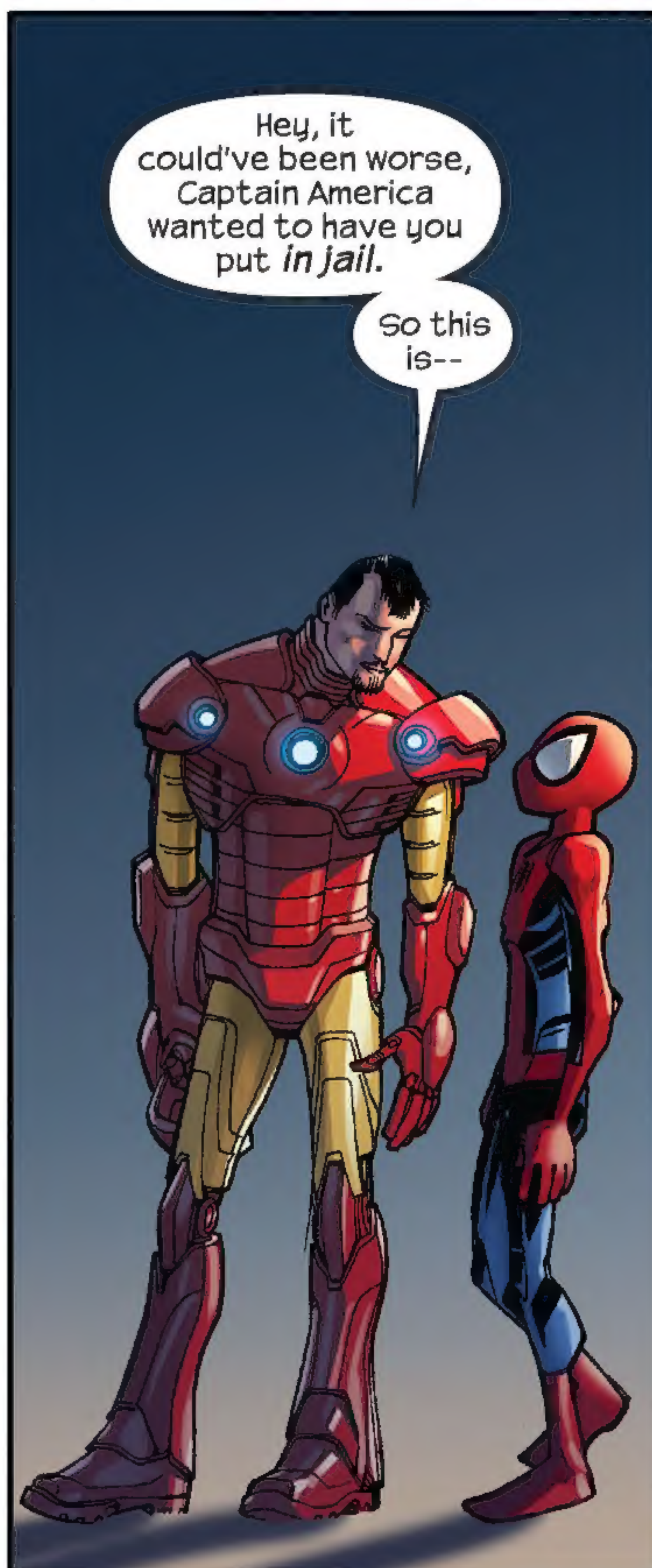
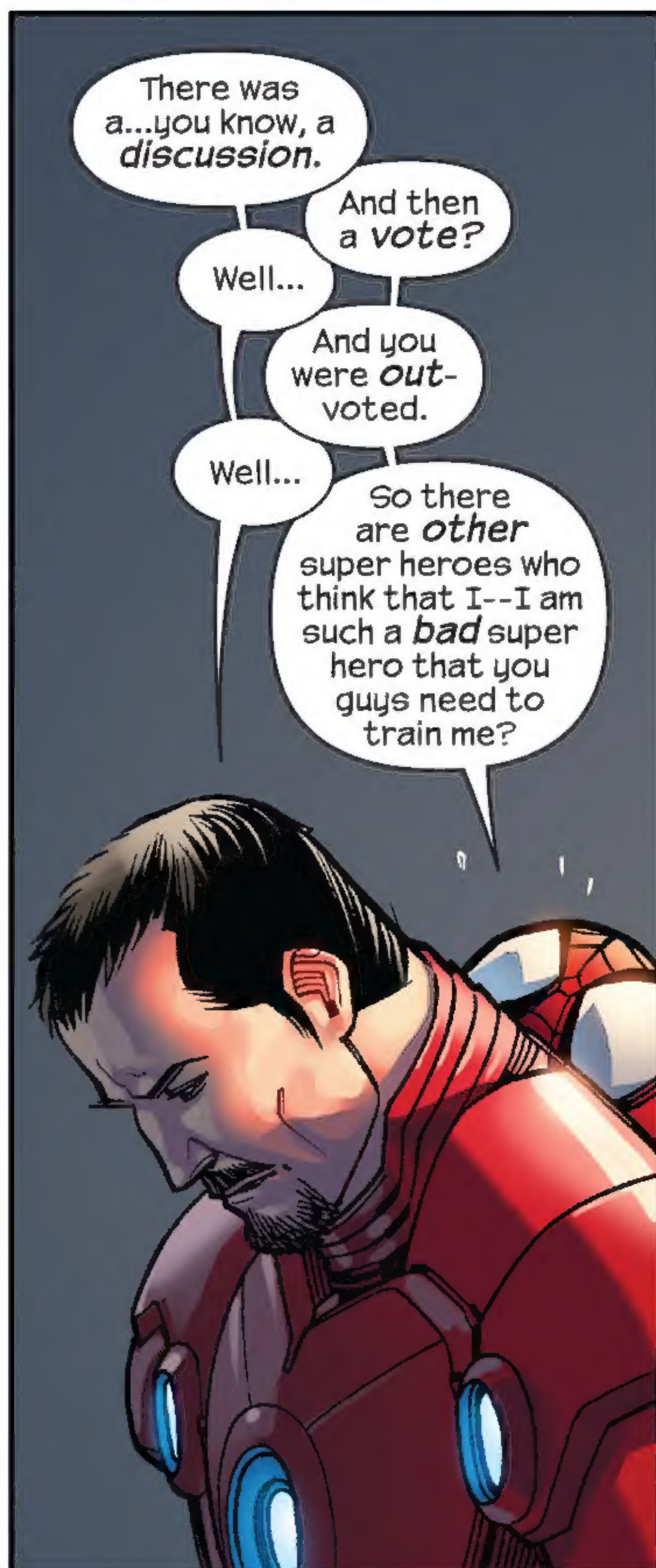
Am I?



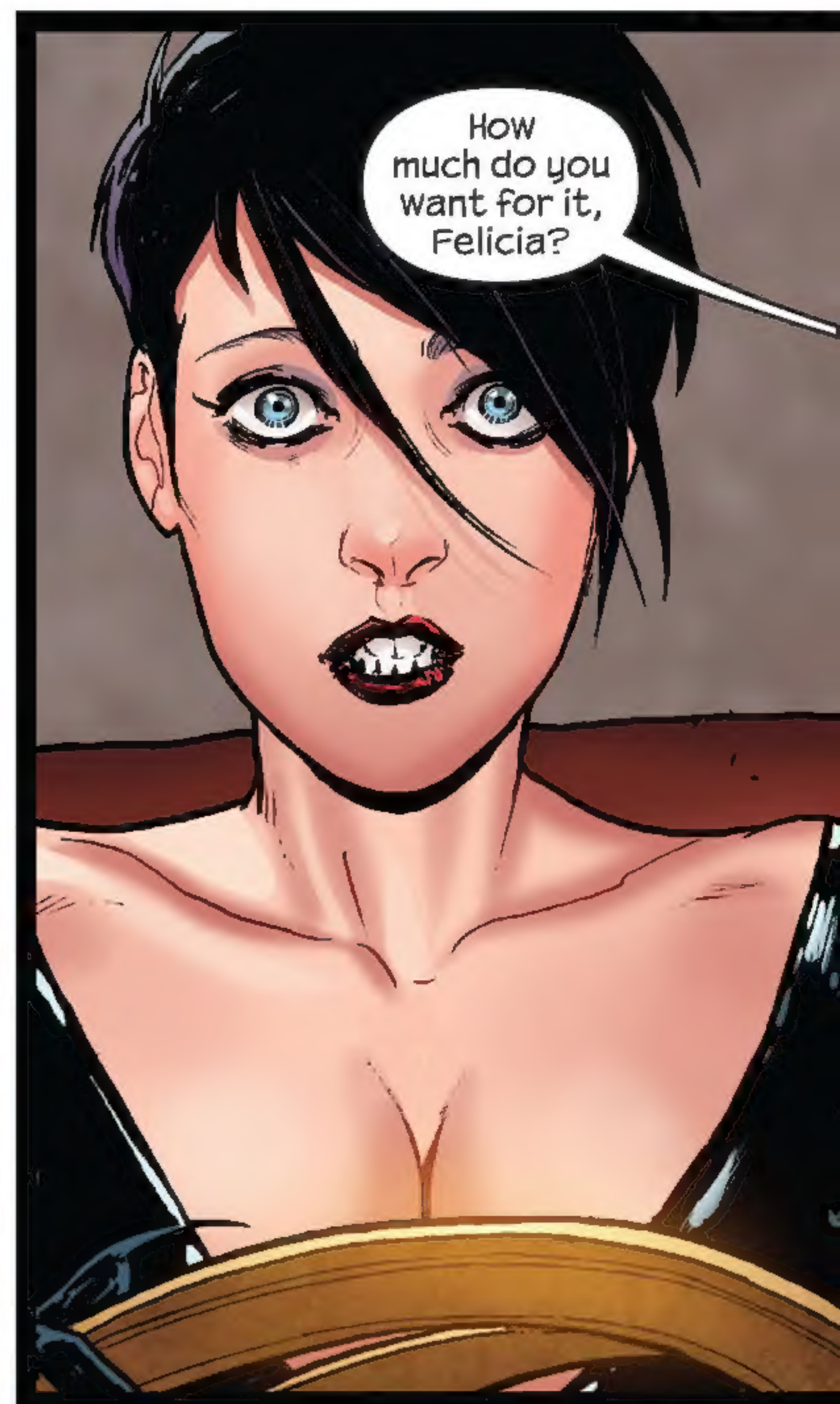
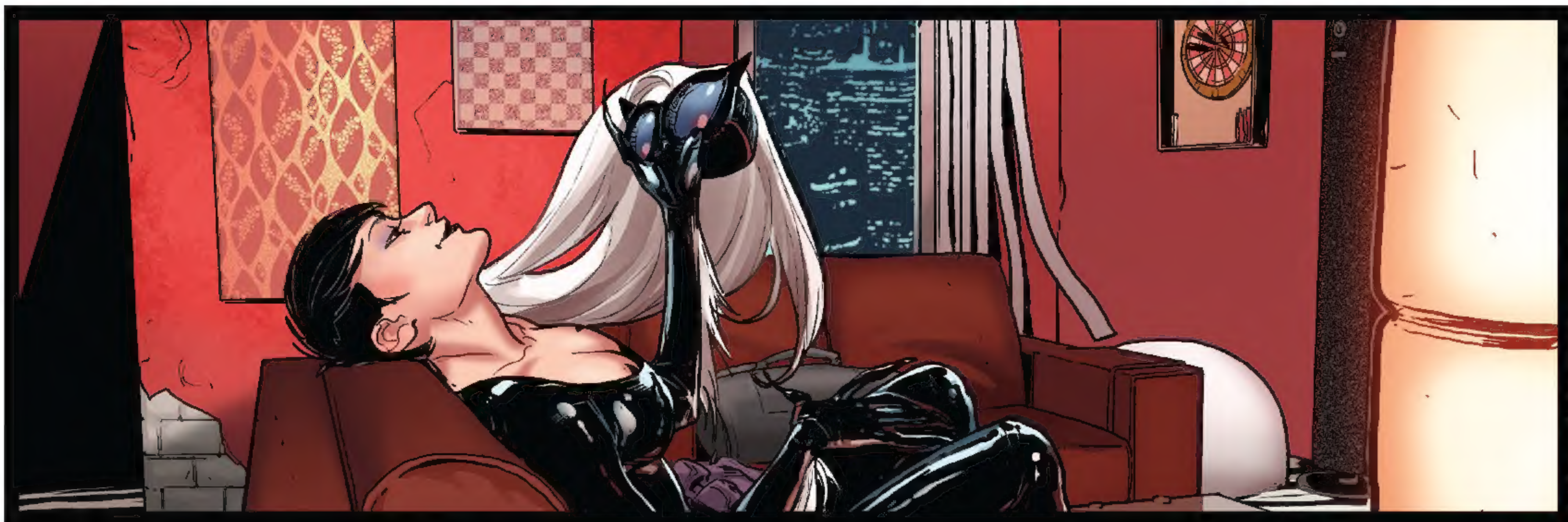
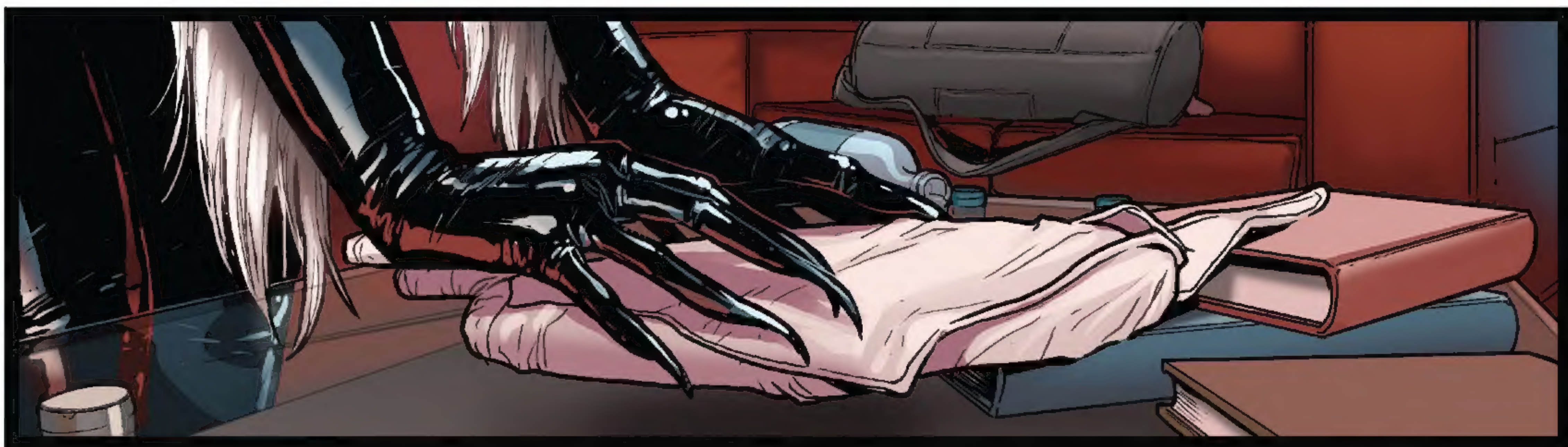
















I'm open to negotiation.

Mysterio...

You followed me home.  
How... creepy.

Not only did I follow you, but this time I did the appropriate research on you.

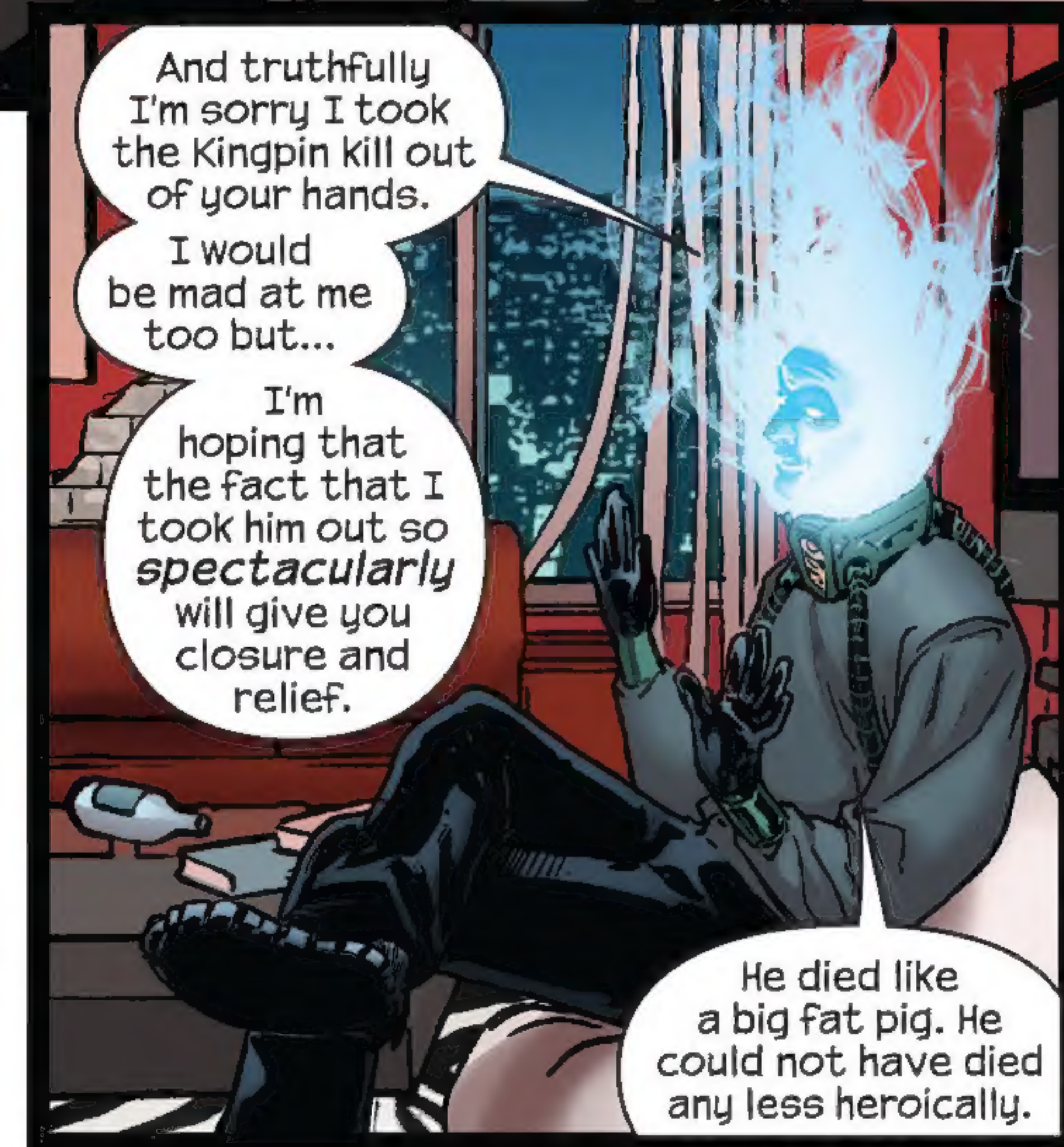
I know who you are, Felicia.

Yeah?

I know now that the Kingpin was at least *indirectly* responsible for your father's death and that you had targeted him.

Revenge I understand.

In fact, I respect it.



And truthfully I'm sorry I took the Kingpin kill out of your hands. I would be mad at me too but...

I'm hoping that the fact that I took him out so *spectacularly* will give you closure and relief.

He died like a big fat pig. He could not have died any less heroically.



This used to be Hammerhead's place.

Nice.

Get to the point.

Sure sure...

Listen, the first time we met I thought you were just a (very) attractive cat burglar.

One of those things a guy like me was just going to have to deal with if I was going to go for this territory.

I didn't realize you had an actual dog in this fight.

But in doing my research I realize that you have *no need* for that key.



You aren't trying to be Kingpin of anything.

You just want it because it was his.

You just want it because it was the thing that helped him lord over his empire. It created the environment that led to your father's death.



But that key no longer belongs to Wilson Fisk and it is not what killed your father.

So that said, I would like it.

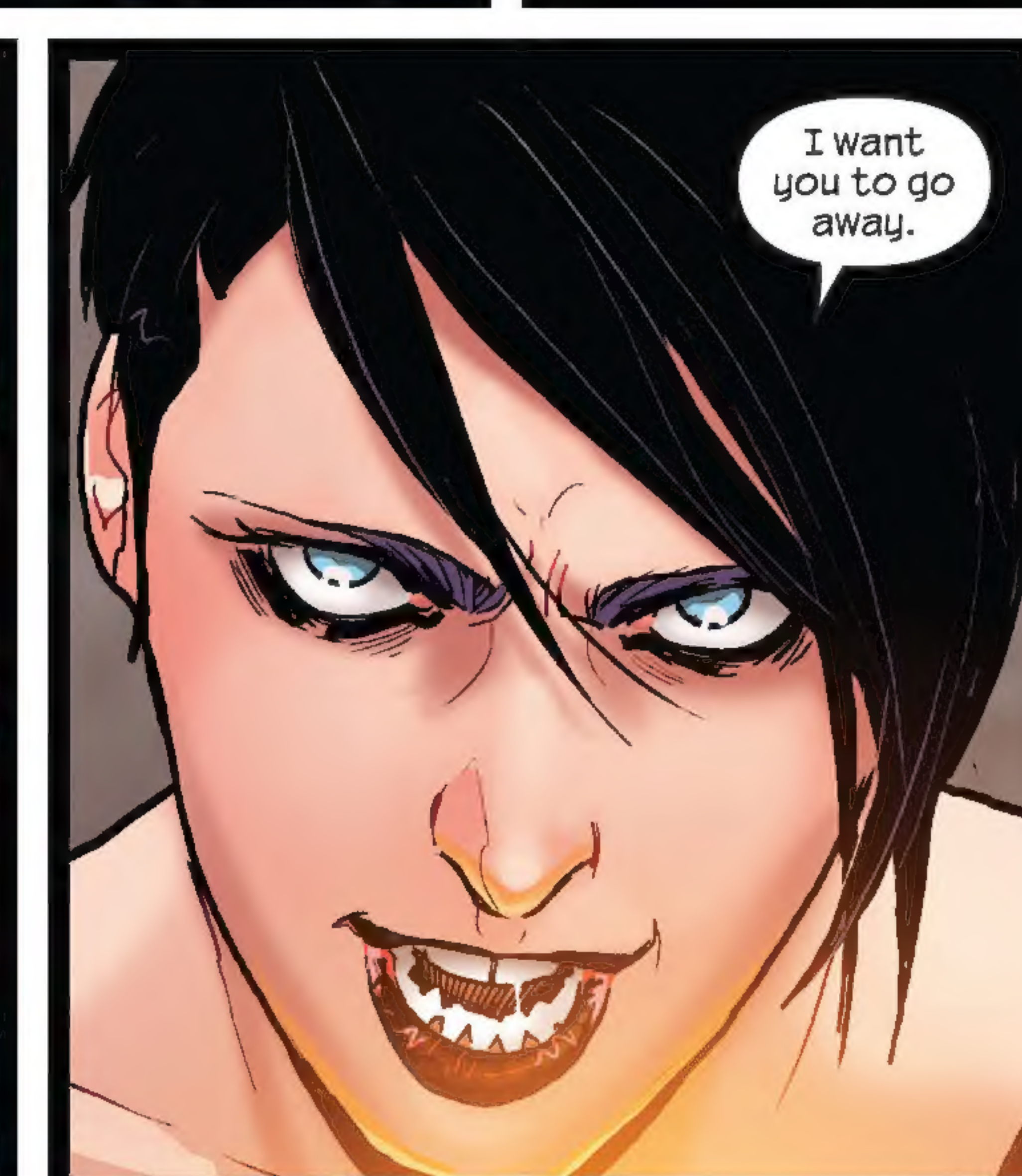
What do you want in return for it?



How'd you do that with your head?



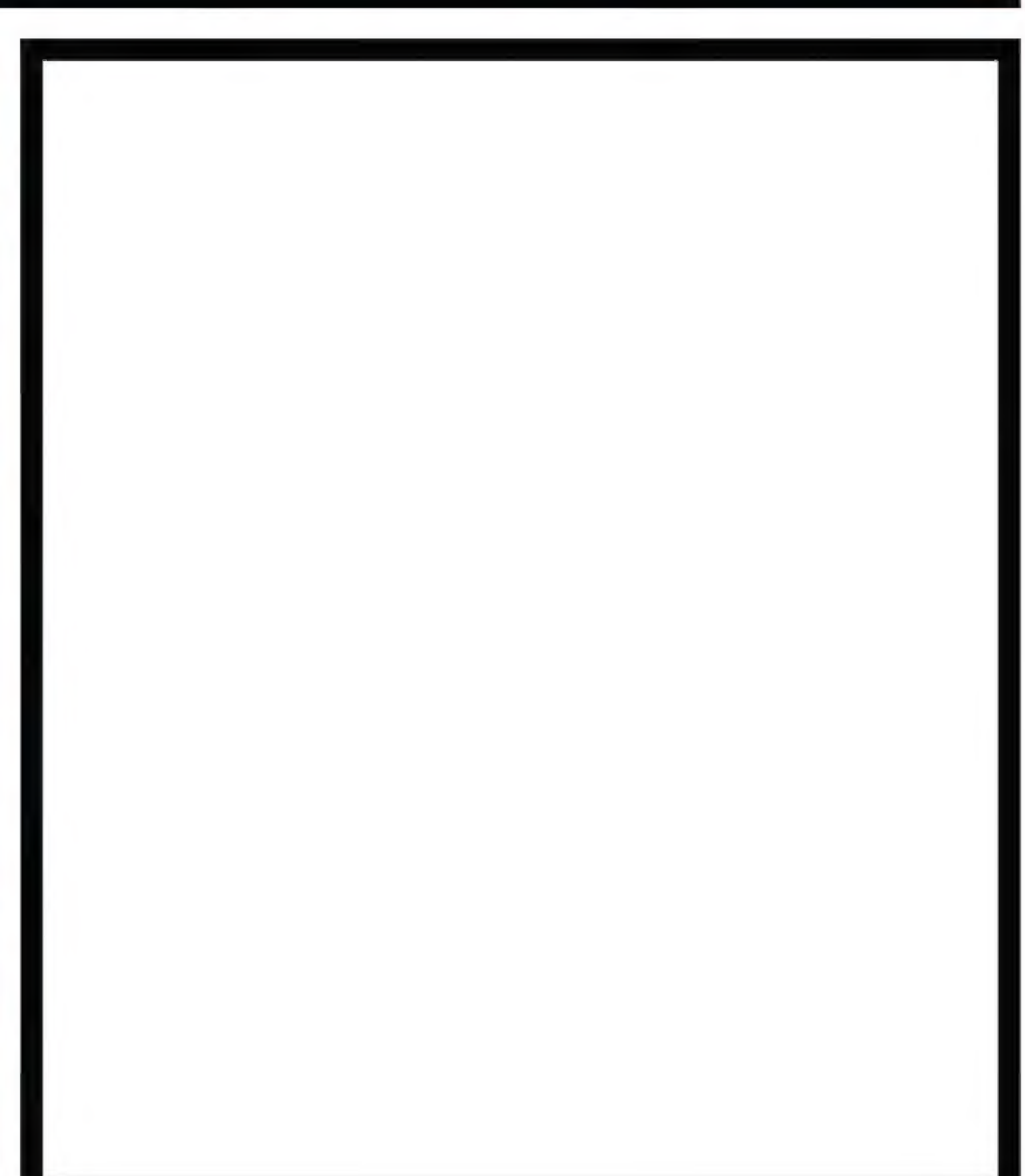
What do you want for the key?



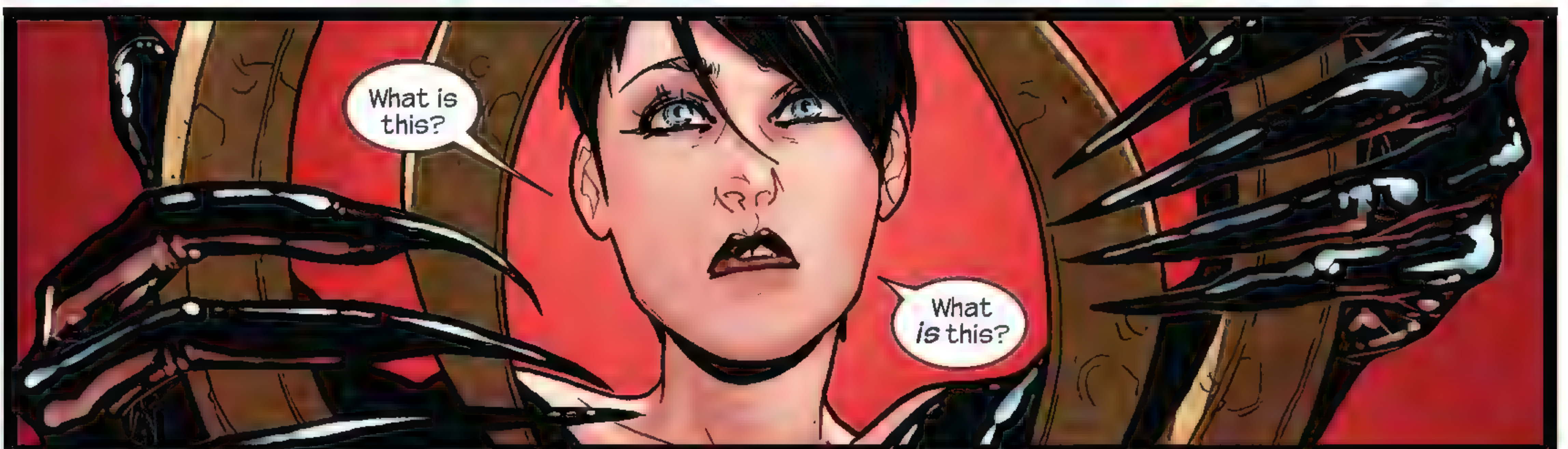
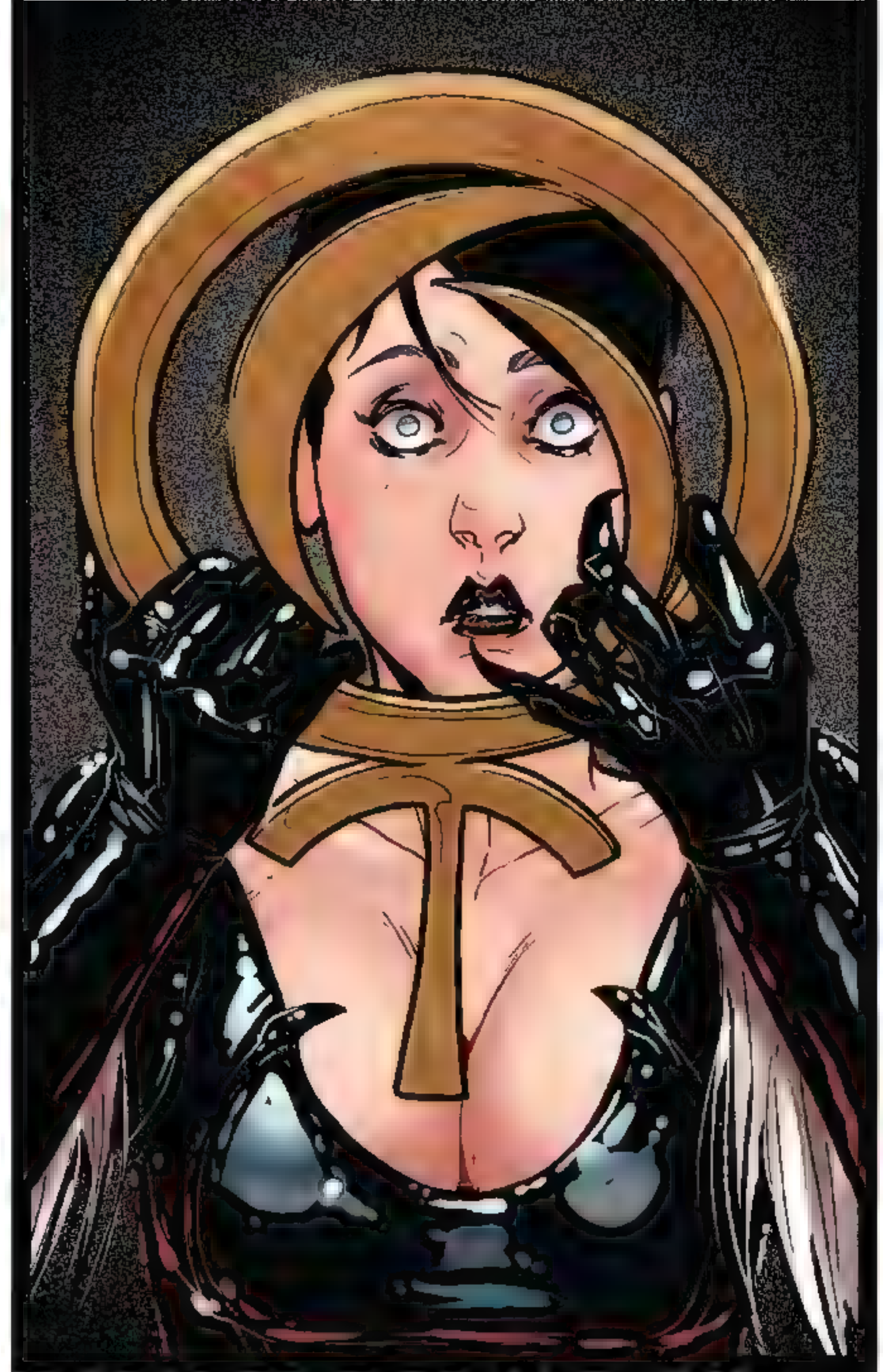
I want you to go away.



No!! Felicia, you just can't--









It, they say, used to belong to the pharaohs.

Like the ones in the Bible?

I know you won't believe me but they say it was--

They say it was given to them by, well, by an alien.

From outer space?

Yes.

An alien?

An alien came here and brought *gifts* and supposedly bequeathed it to he who he *thought* was ruler of the world.

Shut up.

I said you wouldn't believe me.

But I think that you know that at least part of this is true.

If I knew what it was when I went after the Kingpin I can tell you I would have thought more than twice about it.

And how did Wilson Fisk have it?

Because he had it.

Because he fancied himself the kind of man who would have such a thing.

Why did he keep it locked up?

Because--well, that part I don't know.

But he did.

Maybe... because the threat of it is better than actually having to use it?

So you *don't* know.

I said that. This part I'm guessing.

How did *you* know he had this?

Who *are* you?

You should put it down so we can talk.

I don't think so.

Do you know what they call me?







Mystero.  
I did my research too.  
I saw you babbling it up on YouTube.  
You know you made the FBI's most wanted list, right?



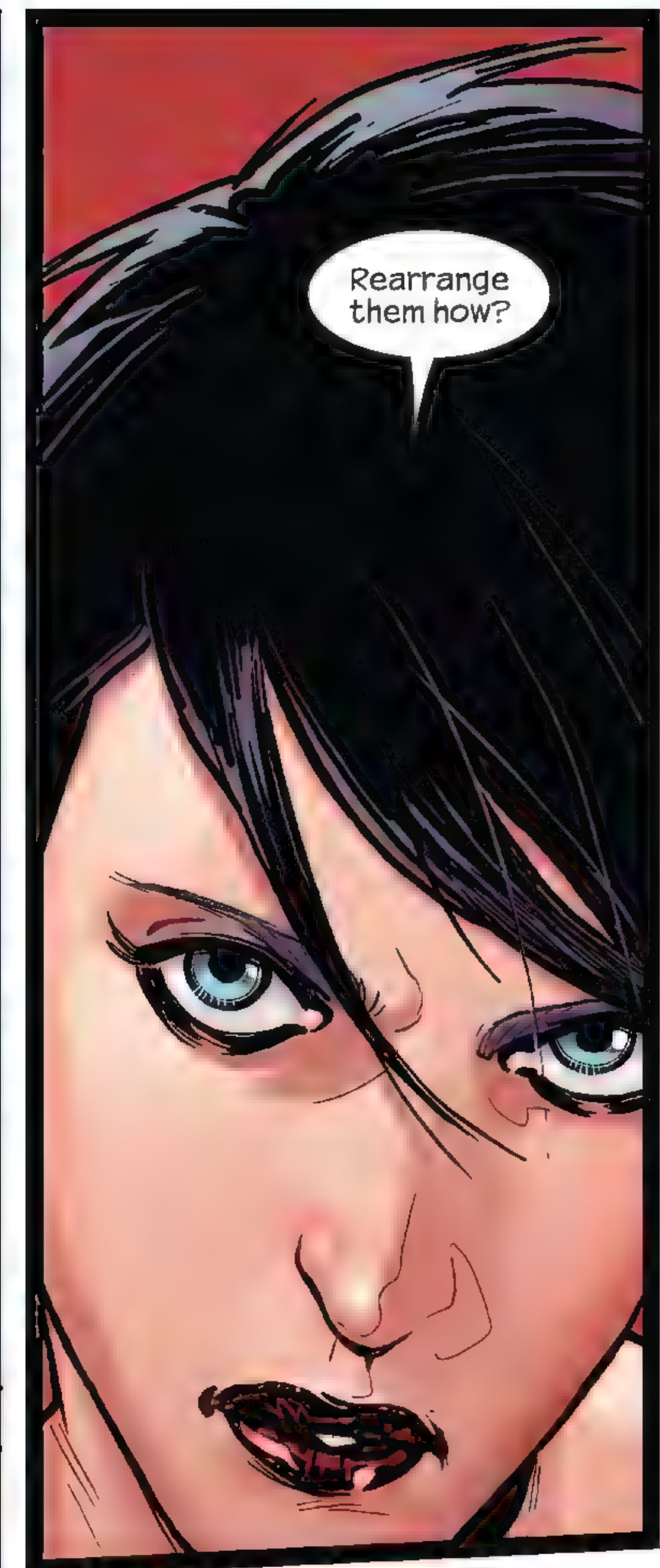
Oh, that's-- I didn't know that.  
Hmm. Pretty cool.  
Are you a mutant?  
I think it's pretty clear by my demeanor and appearance that I like to keep my secrets close to my vest.  
Let's keep the conversation brief and to the point--what do you want?  
How much for the key?



What are you going to do with it?



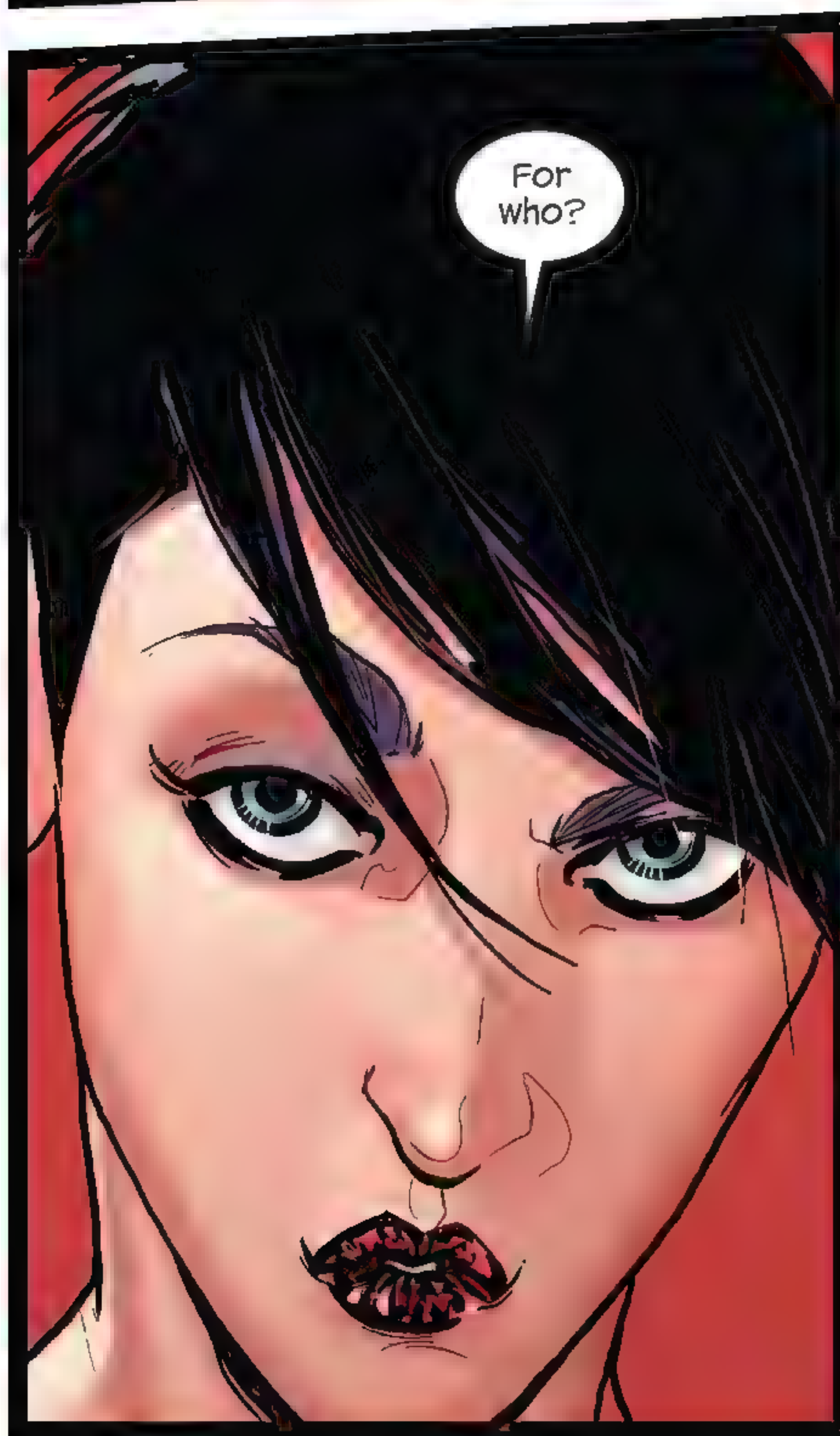
Rearrange things.



Rearrange them how?



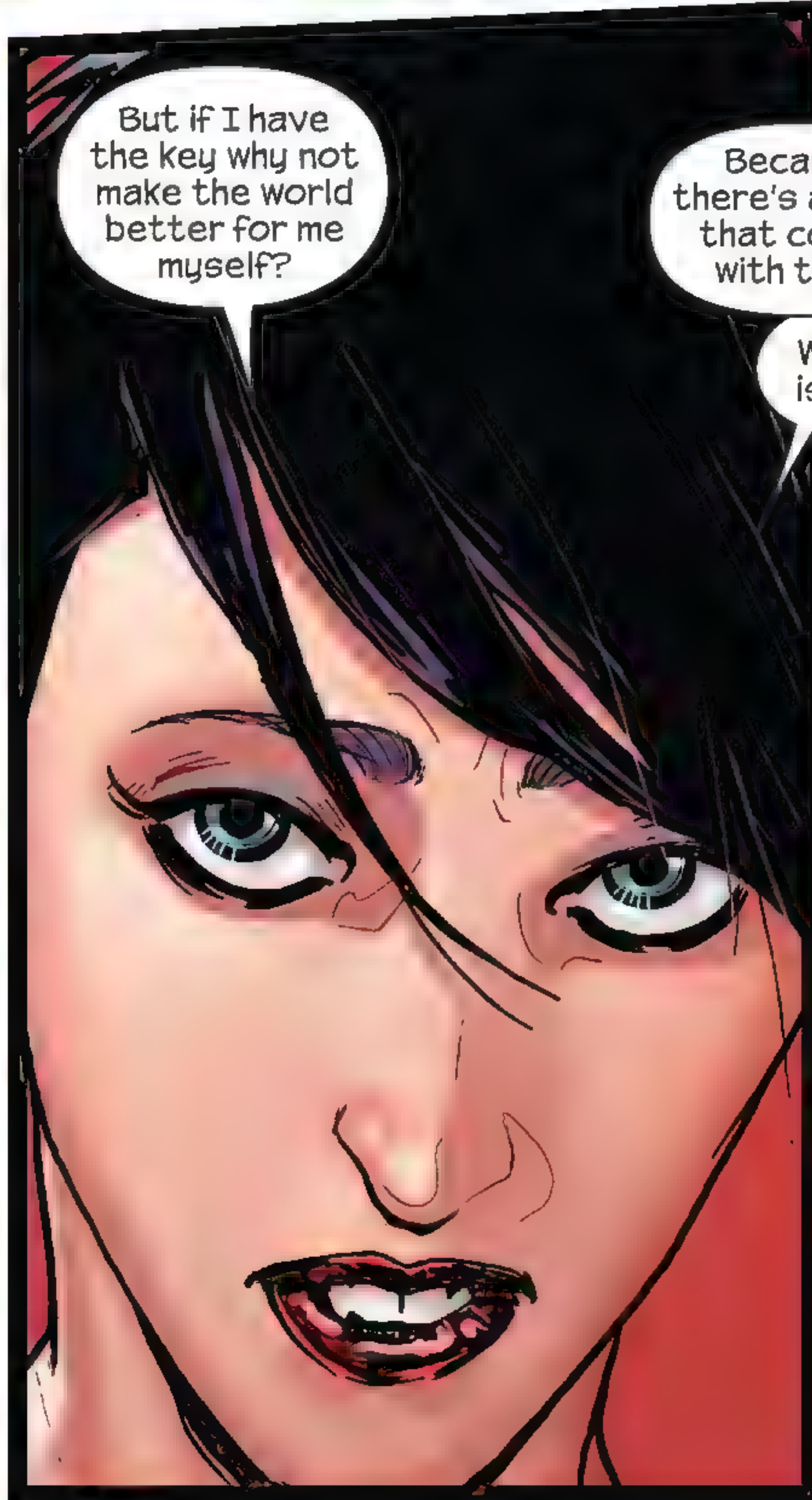
I'm going to make them better.



For who?



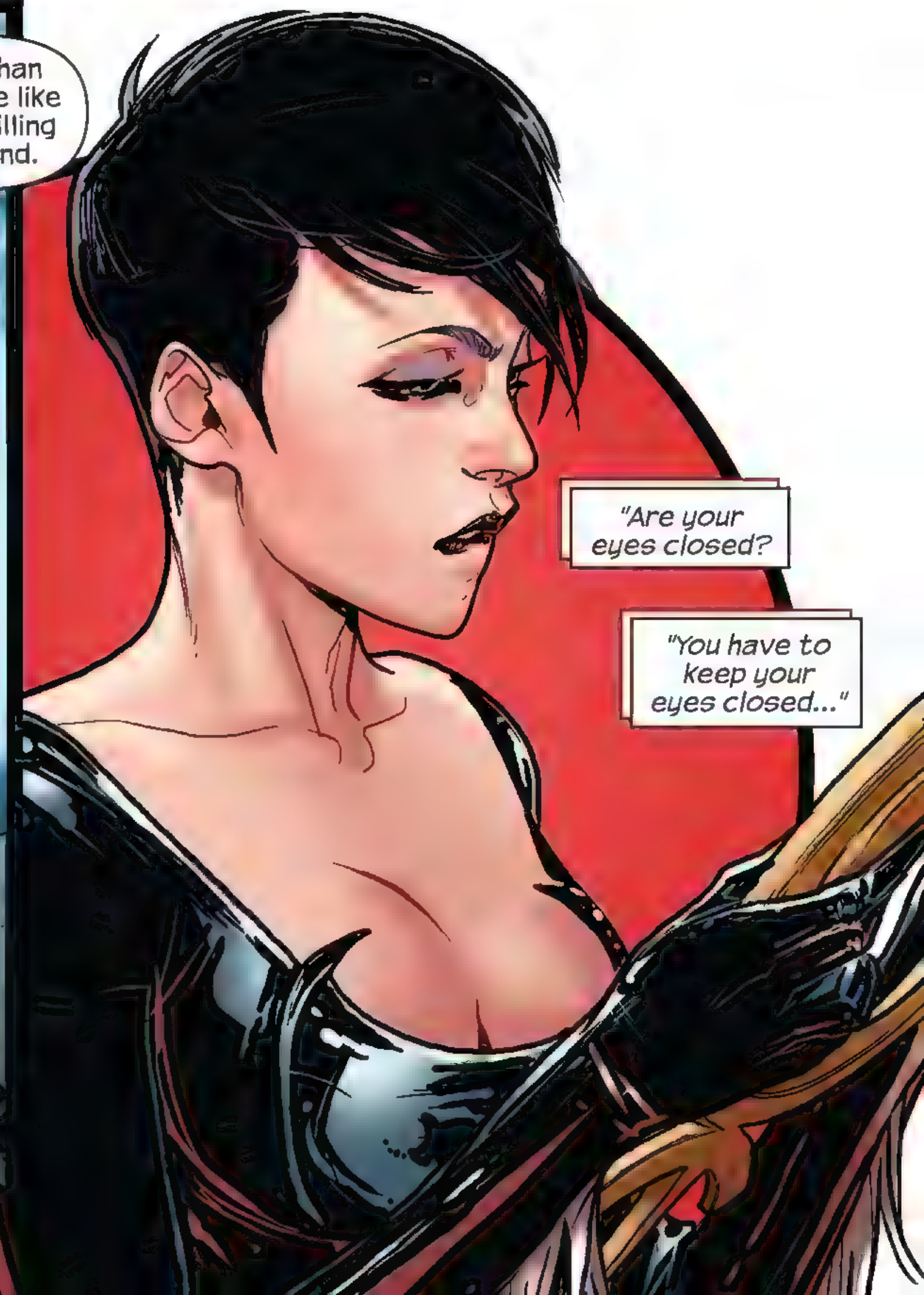
For everyone.  
So, how can I make the world better for you?



But if I have the key why not make the world better for me myself?



Because there's a price that comes with that.  
What is it?



More than someone like you is willing to spend.

"Are your eyes closed?"

"You have to keep your eyes closed..."





Okay, open them...

Ta daa!

Oh my God.

Okay, this-- this is the coolest thing I have ever seen.

I know, right?

This is amazing.

Can I have one?

Do you have 700 million dollars?

Come on, you have so many.

Don't touch.

I know. This is really great.

Thanks for showing me this.

This is inspiring.

There's not that many people who appreciate it so my pleasure.

Why do the other super heroes hate me?

They don't hate you.

They just think you're... a spaz.

Captain America thinks I'm a spaz?

Truth be told I don't think he thinks that much of me either.

I try really hard you know.

I do.

But, guys like us, we have to take responsibility for our actions.

I thought all I was *doing* was taking responsibility for my actions.

If you were a normal kid, you would be considered--if you were a normal kid, you would be exceptional.

But you're not--you have amazing gifts.

And with great power comes great responsibility.

Yeah. You know what? That's not bad.

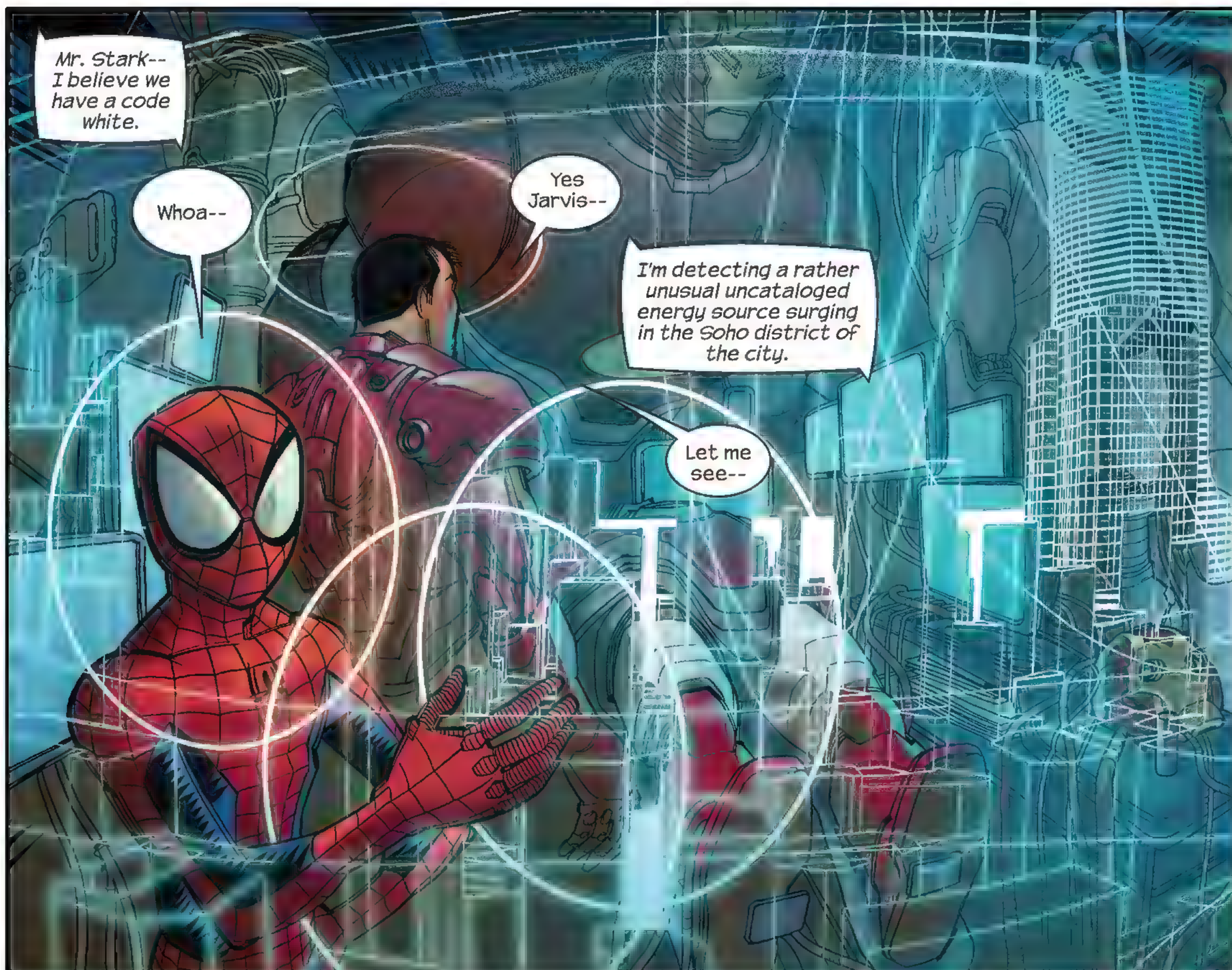
I know.

You should--you should try to live by that motto.

That's a good motto to live by.

I know!!





Mr. Stark--  
I believe we  
have a code  
white.

Whoa--

Yes  
Jarvis--

I'm detecting a rather  
unusual uncataloged  
energy source surging  
in the Soho district of  
the city.

Let me  
see--



Whoah--

That  
is odd.

I have connected  
and updated S.H.I.E.L.D.  
headquarters. They are  
searching their  
databases now.

Record  
it.

I have already  
taken the  
liberty, sir.

SOHO  
NEW YORK CITY



Make sure Carol  
Danvers doesn't have  
something going  
on down there.

In fact,  
get her on the  
phone--

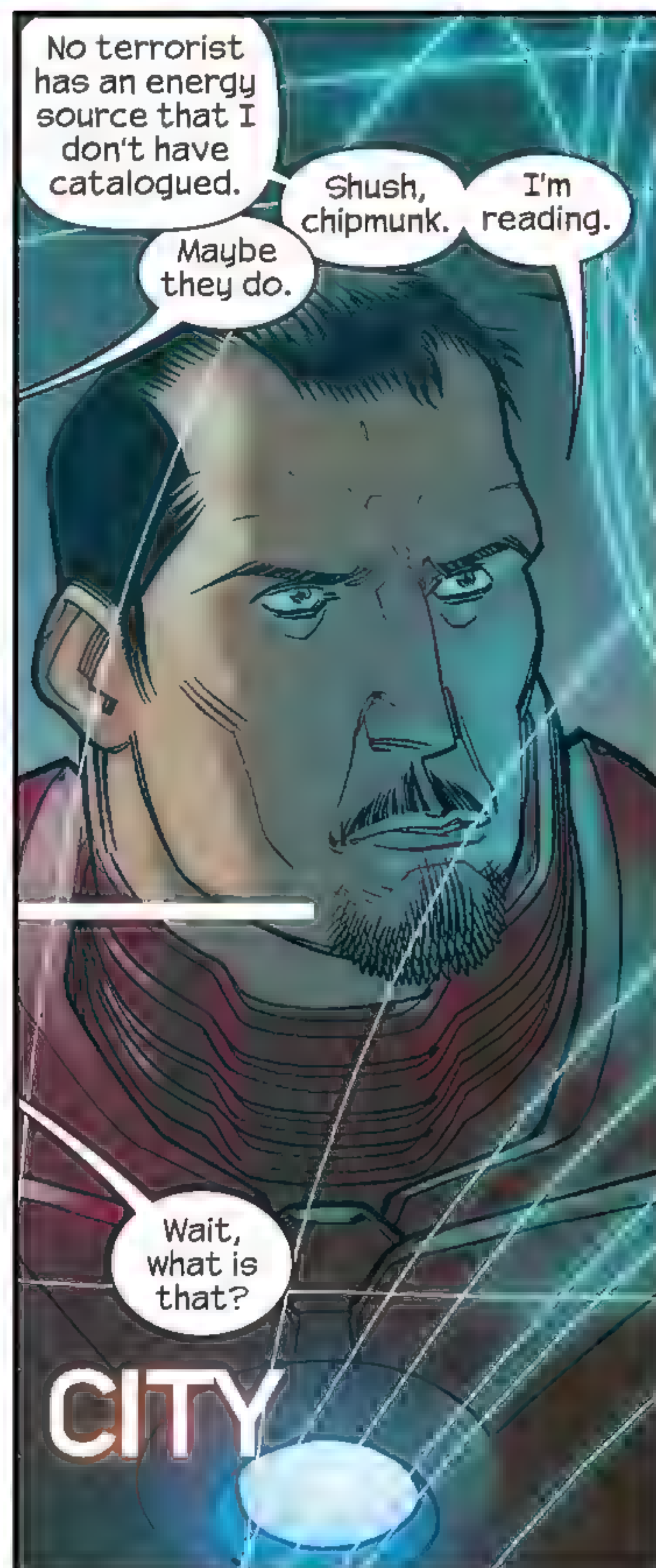
Should we go  
down there and  
check it out?

I don't  
know what  
that is.

We should  
go down there  
and check it  
out.

We should  
find out what  
it is first.

What if it's a  
terrorist??



No terrorist  
has an energy  
source that I  
don't have  
catalogued.

Shush,  
chipmunk.

I'm  
reading.

Maybe  
they do.

Wait,  
what is  
that?

CITY





Agh!

Yipes!



What *was* that Jarvis?!!

An alpha level energy surge.

That was live?

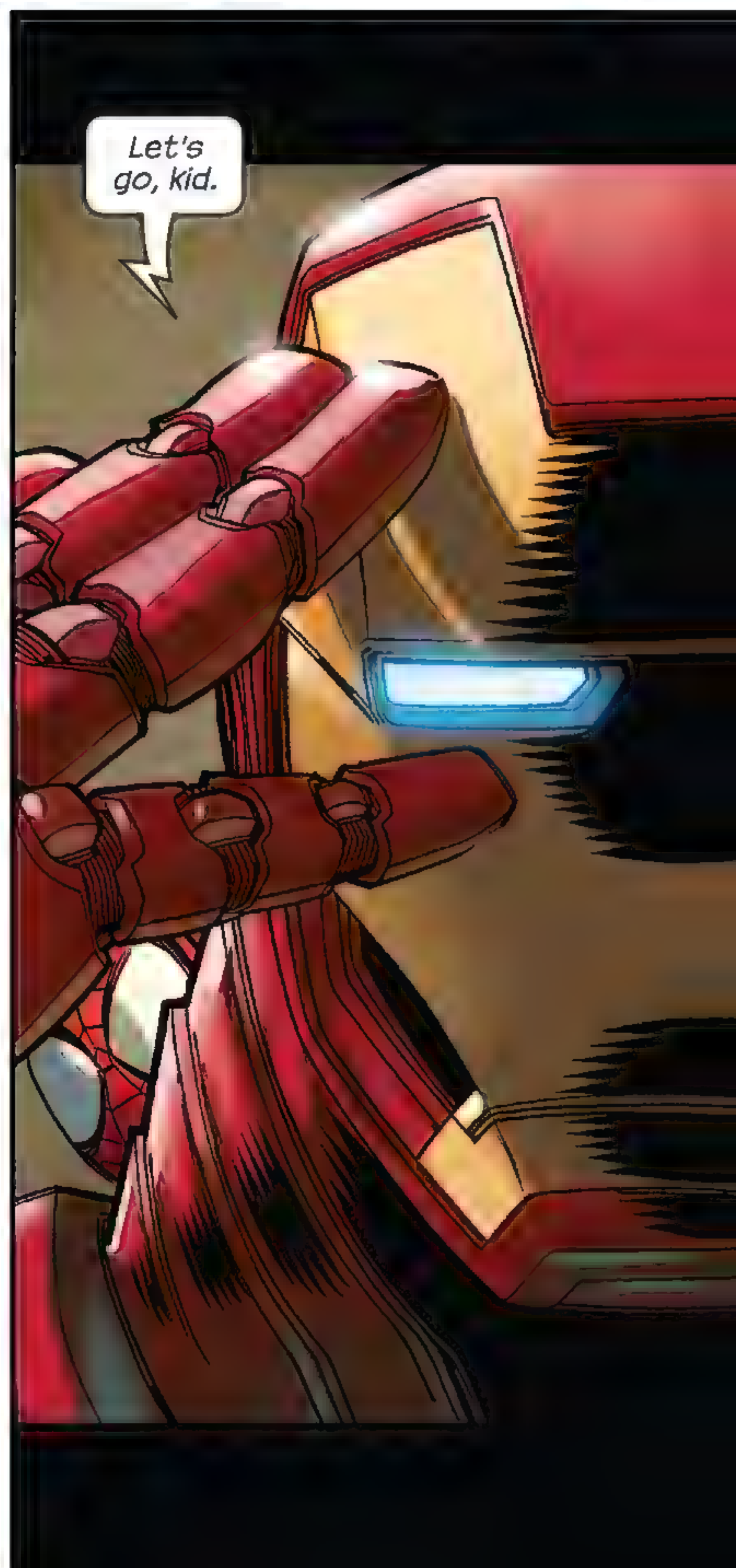
Yes sir.

I am still running the readings and calculations.

Whoa!

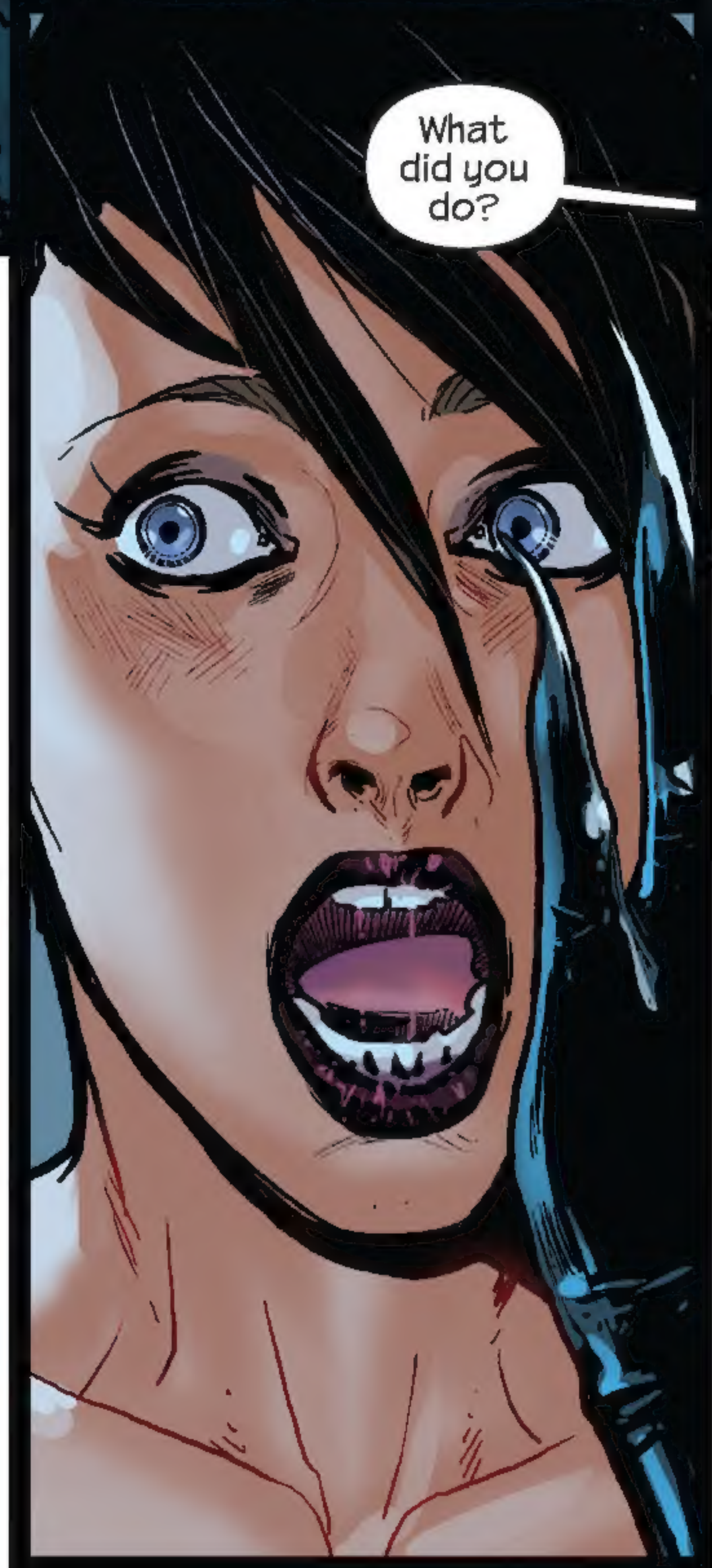
Feed them into the suit.

Yes, Sir.

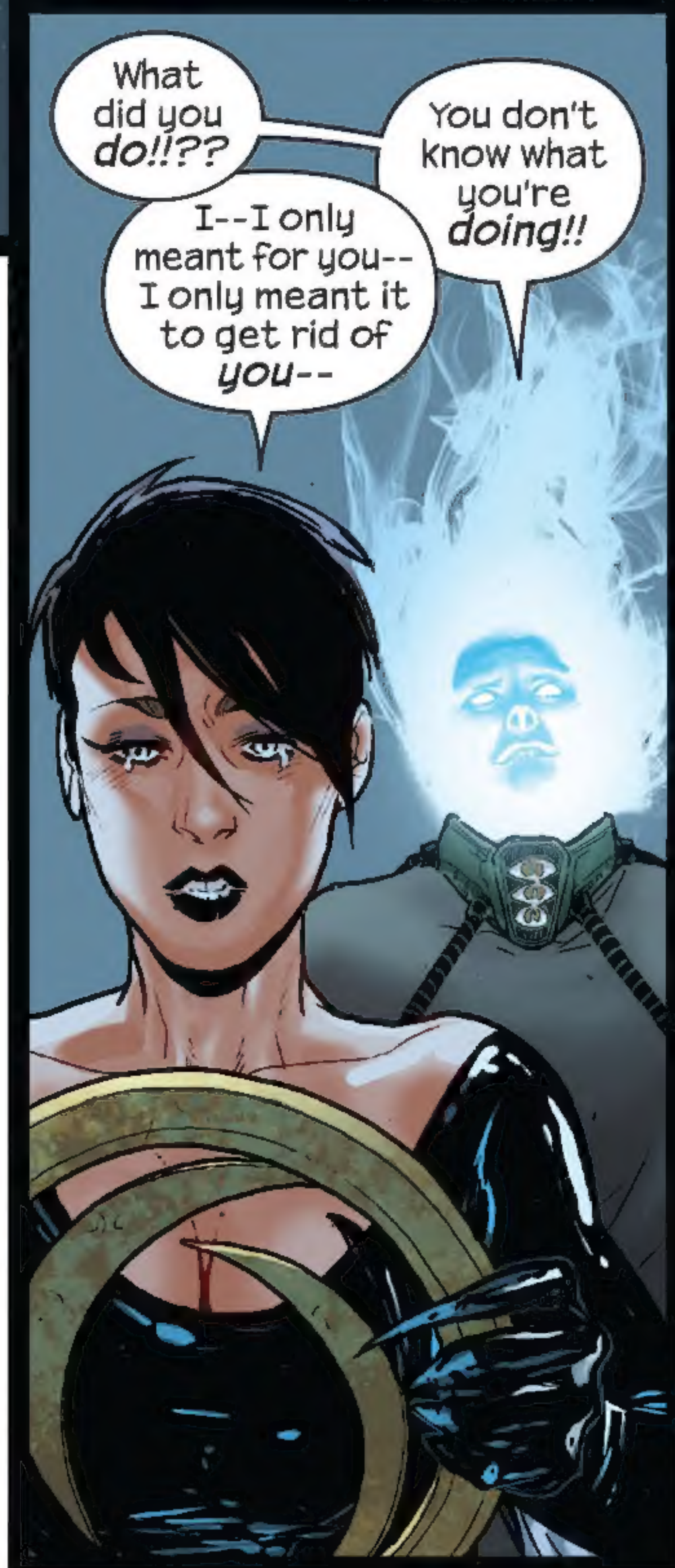


Let's go, kid.





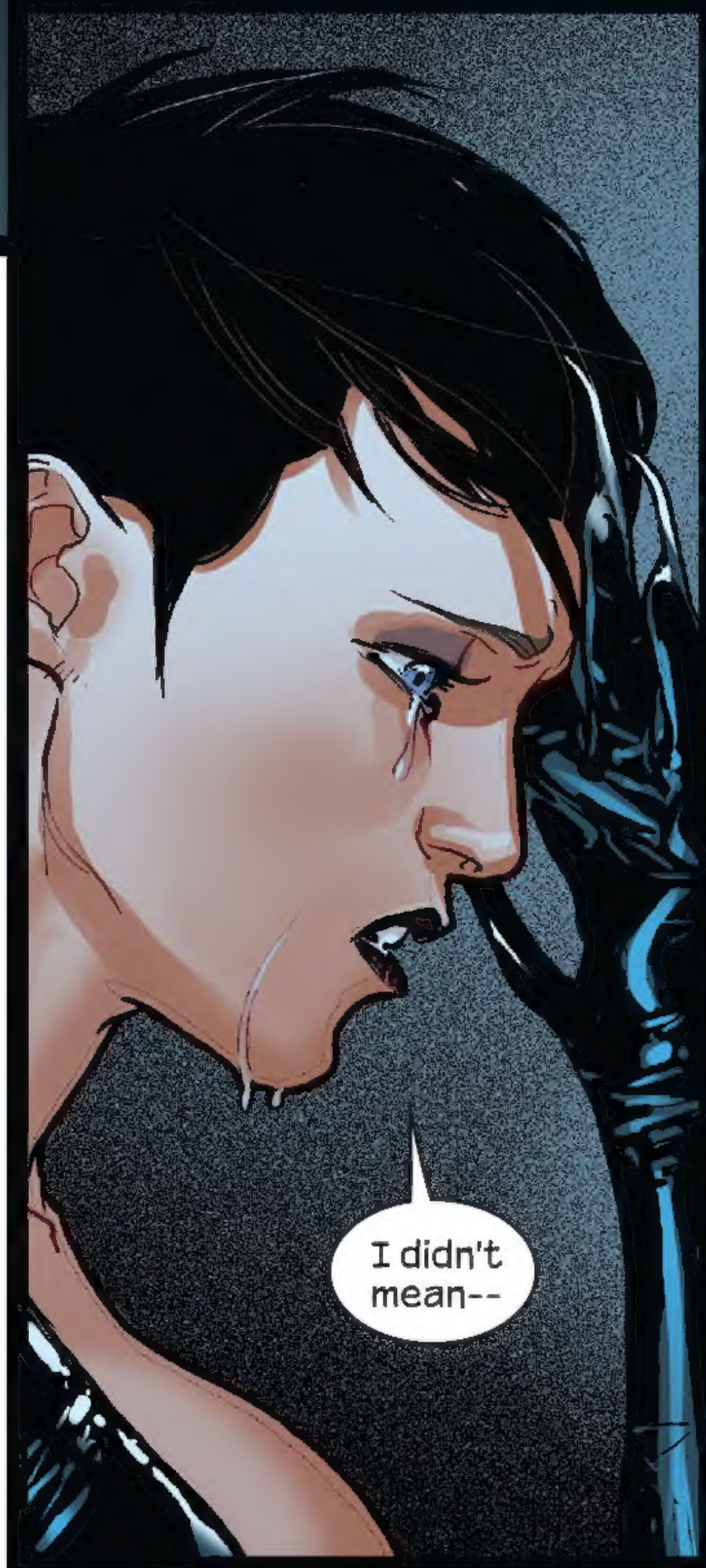
What did you do?



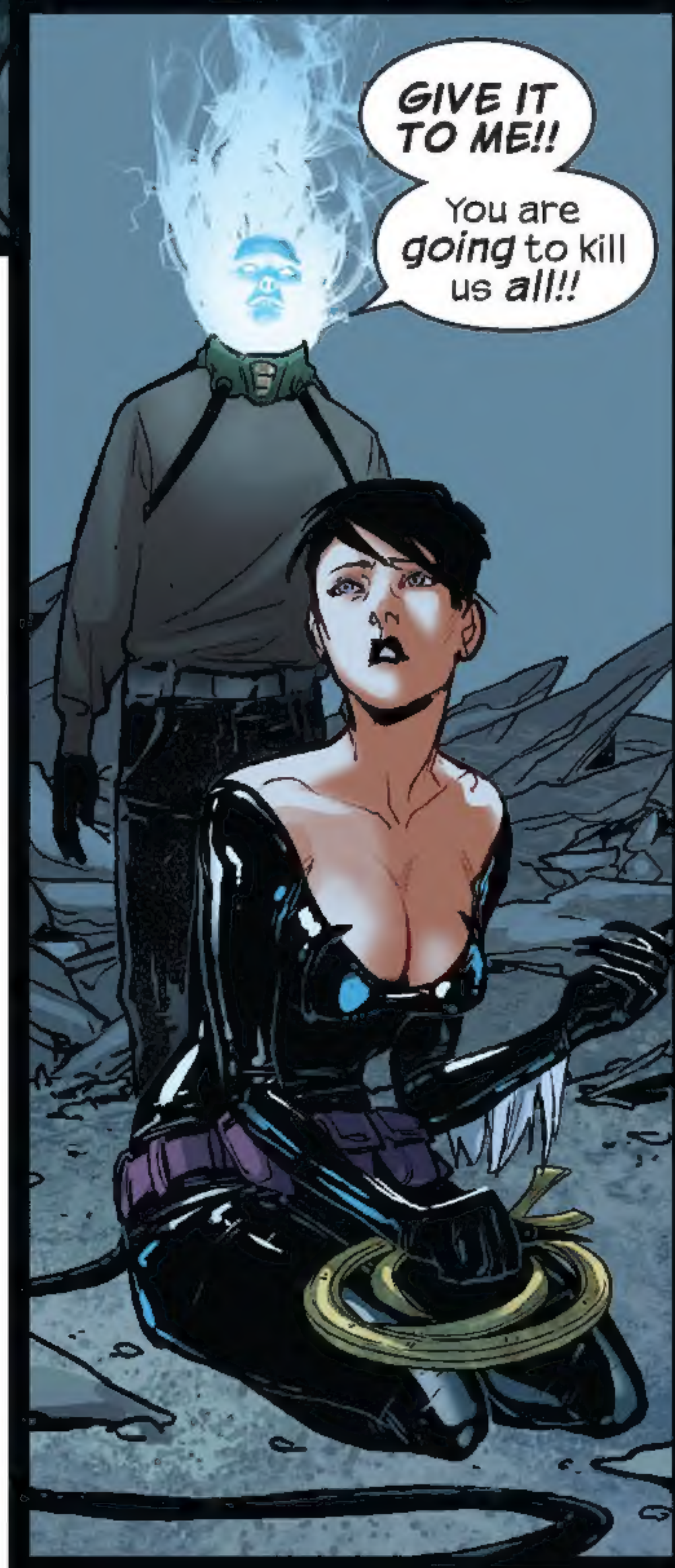
What did you do!??

I--I only meant for you--  
I only meant it to get rid of you--

You don't know what you're doing!!

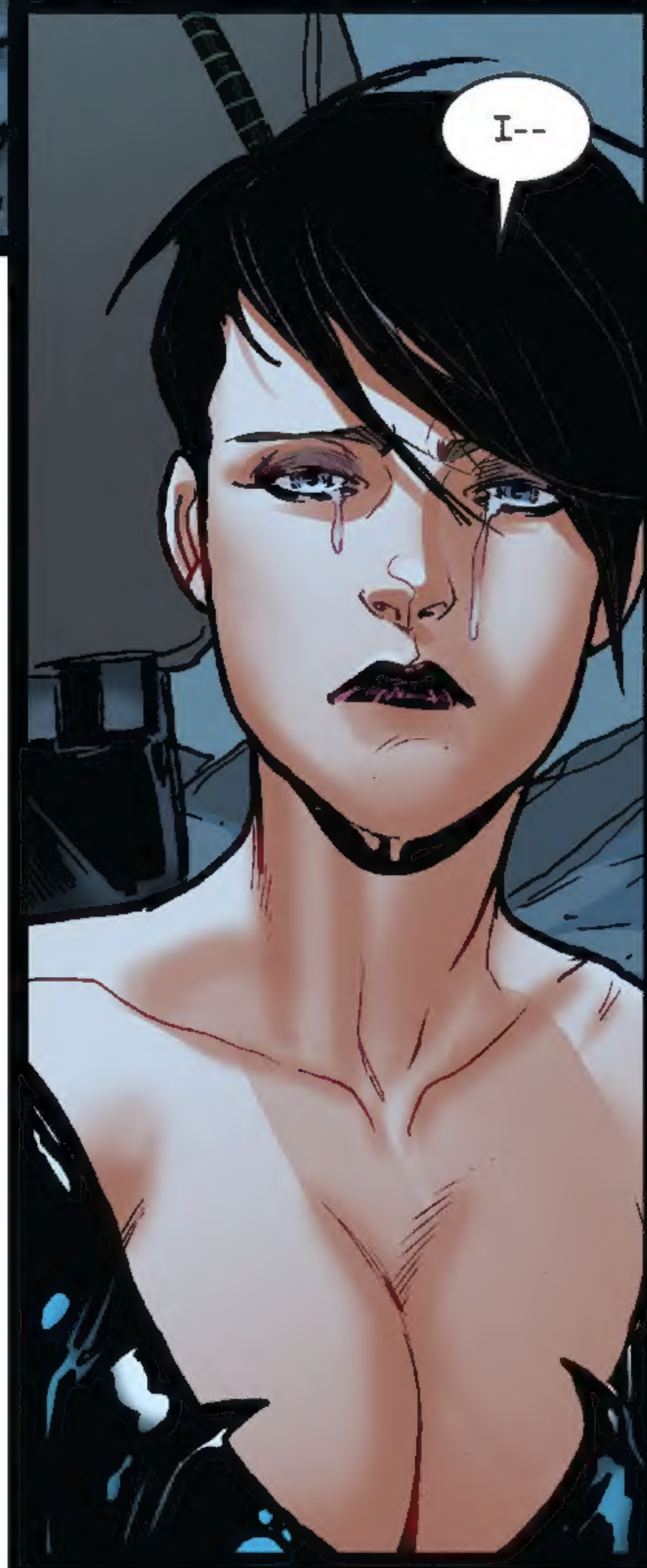


I didn't mean--



GIVE IT TO ME!!

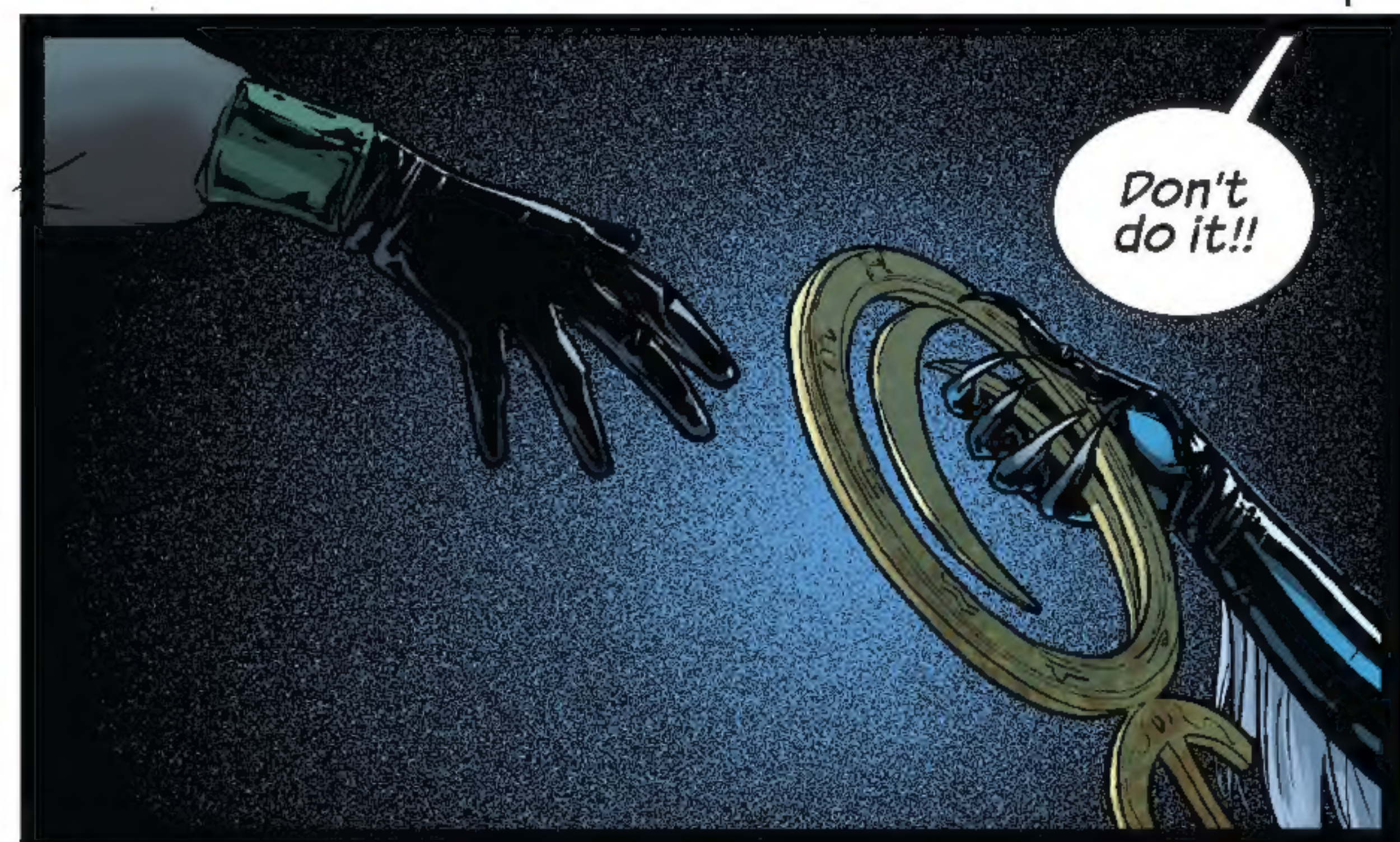
You are going to kill us all!!



I--



I didn't mean--



Don't do it!!









 **To Be Continued...**





EMPIRE